

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Contents

Addresses and Remarks

See also Bill Signings; Meetings With Foreign Leaders
Florida, Read-Pattillo Elementary School in New Smyrna Beach—1790
Georgia, gubernatorial candidate Sonny Perdue and senatorial candidate Saxby Chambliss in Atlanta—1785
Indonesia, terrorist attack—1754
Michigan
 Community in Waterford—1758
 Departure for Waterford—1754
 Dinner for congressional candidate Thaddeus McCotter in Dearborn—1766
Minnesota, Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester—1803
Missouri, Southwestern Missouri State University in Springfield—1797
Radio address—1753
U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce—1795
White House Conference on Minority Homeownership—1772

Bill Signings

Authorization for Use of Military Force
Against Iraq Resolution of 2002
 Remarks—1777
 Statement—1779

Communications to Congress

Colombia, national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers
 Message on continuation—1784
 Message transmitting report—1785

Communications to Federal Agencies

FY 2003 Refugee Admissions Numbers and Authorizations of In-Country Refugee Status, memorandum—1782

Communications to Federal Agencies—Continued

Notification to the Congress of Trade Negotiation, memorandum—1783

Interviews With the News Media

Exchanges with reporters
 Oval Office—1779
 South Lawn—1754

Joint Statements

United States of America and Israel—1782

Meetings With Foreign Leaders

Israel, Prime Minister Sharon—1779

Notices

Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia—1783

Proclamations

National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Week—1751
National School Lunch Week—1751
White Cane Safety Day—1752
Year of Clean Water—1796

Statements by the President

See also Bill Signings
Congressional action
 Defense appropriations legislation—1782
 Election reform legislation—1782
Indonesia, terrorist attack—1754
Northern Ireland—1765

Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—1811
Checklist of White House press releases—1811
Digest of other White House announcements—1809
Nominations submitted to the Senate—1810

Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on October 18, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, October 18, 2002

Proclamation 7608—National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Week, 2002

October 11, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Cystic fibrosis is one of the most common fatal genetic diseases in the United States. During this week, we renew our commitment to fighting this deadly disease that affects an estimated 30,000 American men, women, and children.

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disorder that can be passed on directly from parents to children. Millions of Americans are unknowing, symptom-free carriers of the defective gene that can cause this disease. When both parents are carriers of the abnormal gene, their children have a 1 in 4 chance of being born with the disorder. Individuals who suffer from cystic fibrosis experience frequent lung infections and digestive problems caused by cell disorders in the lining of the lungs, small intestines, sweat glands, and pancreas.

Though there is as yet no known cure for cystic fibrosis, scientists and researchers have made great progress in understanding and treating this disease. Thanks to these efforts, the average life expectancy for people with cystic fibrosis has increased significantly in recent decades, and it is now approximately 30 years. In addition, advances in antibiotic therapy and the management of lung and digestive problems have improved the quality of life for these individuals.

Recent genetic research may also accelerate the discovery of a cure. To help advance the work to end cystic fibrosis, my Administration is dedicated to increasing Federal funding for medical research at the National Institutes of Health. Until cystic fibrosis is eliminated, we are hopeful that our research efforts will continue to extend and im-

prove the quality of life of those stricken with this grave disease.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 13 through October 19, 2002, as National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 16, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 17. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7609—National School Lunch Week, 2002

October 11, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The future success of our Nation depends on our children's healthy development. Since 1946, the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) has made important contributions to the well-being of our school children. As part of the NSLP, more than 96,000 schools and residential childcare institutions serve more than 27 million children each day. In addition to providing young people with nutritious meals, this program supports the academic mission of our schools and helps to ensure

that all our Nation's children reach their full potential.

To avoid the formation of poor eating habits, which are generally established during childhood, we must encourage positive choices that fulfill dietary recommendations. It is critical that our children eat sufficient amounts of fruits and vegetables, reduce fat in their diets, and consume essential nutrients in an overall diet with appropriate calories. By making modest improvements to their diets and increasing physical activities, children can dramatically improve their overall health.

To help meet this goal, the Department of Agriculture launched the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children. This plan empowers schools to serve "kid-friendly" meals that meet the recommendations defined in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Food Guide Pyramid. Through Team Nutrition, a comprehensive, behavior-based plan, the USDA assists schools by supporting food service personnel with important training. New recipes are now created by teams of dietitians and chefs, and then taste-tested by children. As a result, more children are enjoying lunches that are lower in fat, saturated fat, and sodium.

To motivate children to make sound choices, Team Nutrition also educates them about the benefits of healthy eating. State and local governments are supplementing these programs through innovative partnerships with educators, school administrators, community organizations, the food industry, and others. Through these cooperative efforts we are addressing solutions to health problems, such as the increasing incidence of childhood obesity, and we are enhancing access to nutrition programs for needy children.

During National School Lunch Week, we recognize the hard work and dedication of the thousands of food service professionals who plan and prepare meals, and provide vital nutritional education to our young people.

In recognition of the contributions of the National School Lunch Program to the health, education, and well-being of our Nation's children, the Congress, by joint resolution of October 9, 1962 (Public Law 87-780),

as amended, has designated the week beginning on the second Sunday in October of each year as "National School Lunch Week" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 13 through October 19, 2002, as National School Lunch Week. I call upon all Americans to join the dedicated individuals who administer the National School Lunch Program at the State and local levels in appropriate activities and celebrations that promote all programs that support the health and well-being of our Nation's children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 16, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 17. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7610—White Cane Safety Day, 2002

October 11, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The white cane is a powerful symbol of independence and opportunity for visually impaired persons. It is also an essential tool for increasing mobility and productivity for those who are blind as well as those who suffer from severe visual impairment. On White Cane Safety Day, our Nation renews its dedication to eliminating barriers for every disabled American, especially the blind and visually impaired.

My Administration seeks to ensure that all Americans enjoy full access to employment, education, and all the blessings of freedom.

Through my “New Freedom Initiative,” we are working to provide people with disabilities more employment opportunities and increased access to new technologies for independent living. My 2003 budget for this initiative proposes \$145 million for alternative transportation and innovative transportation grants that will improve accessibility to vital aspects of society including schools, jobs, and places of worship. By implementing these and other important reforms, we can make great progress towards an America where individuals are celebrated for their talents and abilities, not judged by their limitations and disabilities.

The Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88–628) approved on October 6, 1964, as amended, has designated October 15 of each year as “White Cane Safety Day.”

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2002, as White Cane Safety Day. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to join with me in ensuring that all the benefits and privileges of life in our great Nation are available to blind and visually impaired individuals, and to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 16, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 17. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President’s Radio Address

October 12, 2002

Good morning. This week, both the House and Senate passed strong bipartisan measures authorizing the use of force in Iraq if it becomes necessary. Our country and our

Congress are now united in purpose. America is speaking with one voice: Iraq must disarm and comply with all existing U.N. resolutions, or it will be forced to comply.

Confronting Iraq is an urgent matter of national security. America’s economic security, especially the creation of good jobs, is also an urgent matter requiring Presidential and congressional action. For that reason, I acted on Tuesday to reopen our Pacific coast ports which had been shut down for more than a week due to a labor dispute. The crisis in the western ports was costing our economy up to a billion dollars a day in lost business and lost jobs, hurting truckers and rail operators who transport goods across America, workers on assembly lines, cashiers in retail stores, and manufacturers and farmers who sell across the world.

An auto plant in Fremont, California was forced to shut down its assembly line for 2 days, keeping about 5,100 employees off the job after it ran out of parts. A company that manufactures televisions and VCRs had to stop production and lay off 150 workers in Vancouver, Washington. Produce from America’s farms was stuck on docks, unable to be sold overseas. Retailers across the country were worried about having enough merchandise for the holiday season.

The American people have been working hard to bring our economy back from recession. We simply cannot afford to have hundreds of billions of dollars a year in potential manufacturing and agricultural trade sitting idle. The action I took this week will help keep our economy moving and allow labor and management more time to resolve their differences. I expect the port operators and worker representatives to bargain in good faith and reach a final agreement as quickly as possible. Reopening the ports got people back to work.

Another important step in putting America’s hardhats back on the job is passing a terrorism insurance bill. Congress is close to a final agreement. And I look forward to signing this good piece of legislation if and when it gets to my desk.

After September the 11th, many insurance companies stopped covering builders and real estate owners against the risk of terrorist attack. The lack of terrorism insurance has

hurt the growth of this economy and cost American jobs. The lack of terrorism insurance has delayed or canceled more than \$15 billion in real estate transactions. The \$15 billion worth of delay has cost 300,000 jobs—jobs to carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, plumbers, and other hard-working Americans.

This terrorism insurance legislation will cost us nothing if we experience no further attacks. Yet it will mean thousands of new jobs for America's hardhats and billions in new investment. And if we do face another attack, we'll be able to compensate victims quickly and limit the economic damage to America.

This week, leaders of Congress put partisan differences aside to confront a grave danger to our country. Clearly, we're able to get things done in Washington when we focus on getting results, rather than scoring political points. For the good of the economy, for the good of workers who need jobs, Senators should again put politics aside and take one last step to reach a final agreement on terrorism insurance.

Congress is still in session next week. There's still time to reach an agreement. Our workers have waited a year. It's past time for Congress to finish the job.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:10 p.m. on October 11 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 12. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 11 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Indonesia

October 13, 2002

Terrorists have once again targeted innocents this time in Indonesia. At least 182 innocent men and women have been murdered and hundreds injured in a cowardly act designed to create terror and chaos.

On behalf of the people of the United States, I condemn this heinous act. I offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of

all the murder victims from numerous countries and our wish for the swift and complete recovery of those injured in this attack.

I offer our sympathy to our friends, the people of Indonesia, for this terrible tragedy. Our prayers are also with our friends and allies, the people of Australia, who are suffering a grievous personal and national loss.

The world must confront this global menace terrorism. We must together challenge and defeat the idea that the wanton killing of innocents advances any cause or supports any aspirations. And we must call this despicable act by its rightful name murder.

The United States has offered its assistance to the government of Indonesia to help bring these murderers to justice.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Remarks on Departure for Waterford, Michigan, and an Exchange With Reporters

October 14, 2002

Terrorist Attack in Indonesia

The President. Last night I called Prime Minister Howard of Australia to express our country's deepest sympathies to the citizens of that good country who lost their lives, to the families who mourn and cry. I send the same sympathies and prayers to the family of the U.S. citizen—or citizens—as well as citizens from around the world. The murder which took place in Bali reminds us that this war against terror continues.

I've constantly told the American people that the struggle against terror is going to be a long and difficult struggle, that we're dealing with coldblooded killers, that the enemy does not value innocent life like we do, and that we must continue to pursue the enemy before they hurt us again.

I believe that the attacks on the French vessel in Yemen is connected with this type of terror, that they're related. I believe that the attack on our marines in Kuwait reflect the international nature of these cells, these killer cells. We've got to continue to work together. Those of us who love freedom must

work together to do everything we can to disrupt, deny, and bring to justice these people who have no soul, no conscience, people who hate freedom.

I told the Prime Minister and I told Prime Minister Blair—the Prime Minister of Australia—and I told Prime Minister Blair this morning that I'm absolutely determined to continue to lead the coalition. They recognize the need for us to continue to work together. And it's a sad day for a lot of people around the world, and—but it also is a day in which we've got to realize that we've got a long way to go to make the world more secure and more peaceful.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Q. Sir, how does this emphasize the risk that we have in this country—

The President. Yes—

Q. —and does this improve your ability to put together a coalition and a resolution in the U.N.?

The President. Well, I think that the free world is—must recognize that no one is safe, that if you embrace freedom, you're not safe from terrorism. And clearly, the attacks in Bali—I think we have to assume it's Al Qaida. We're beginning to hear some reports that's more definitive than that, but I wait for our own analysis. But clearly it's a deliberate attack on citizens who love freedom, citizens from countries which embrace freedom. They're trying to intimidate us, and we won't be intimidated.

I'm concerned about our homeland. Obviously, if I knew of a specific piece of intelligence that would indicate a moment or a place in which the enemy would attack, we'd do a lot about it. But that's why we're still working with our authorities, the different—taking the intelligence as we know it and responding.

Here at home we're not immune from these kinds of attacks, and I'm concerned about it.

Yes, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Al Qaida/Iraq

Q. Mr. President, does this mean now that Al Qaida has reconstituted itself, and do you think—how does this play on your policy on Iraq?

The President. Yes. Well, first, I—we're making great progress in the war against terror. But as I told our citizens, and have been repeatedly telling our citizens, this is a long war. And it's going to take a while to fully rout Al Qaida. We don't know whether bin Laden is alive or dead. You know, they keep floating supposed letters and—or radio broadcasts. We do know that Al Qaida is still dangerous. And while we've made good progress, there's a lot more work to do.

As I've repeatedly said, our thoughts about Iraq relate to the war on terror and that dealing with—or getting Saddam Hussein to disarm is all part of making the world more peaceful. And it's all part of the war against terror.

Yes, John [John Roberts, CBS News].

Usama bin Laden/Al Qaida

Q. Mr. President, do you—on that point, on Usama bin Laden, do you have a response to the letter that was put out today, allegedly under his name, praising the killing of the American marine in Kuwait? And do you share the concerns of Senator Richard Shelby, who believes that this is, in fact, a new Al Qaida offensive?

The President. Well, I—first, I don't know whether bin Laden is alive or dead. I—you know, I do know Al Qaida is extremely dangerous. I do know that there are still some of his top lieutenants roaming around and that we're doing everything we can to bring them to justice.

John, I also know that the enemy still wants to hit us and that the—as I mentioned earlier, that I believe the attack on the French vessel was a terrorist attack. Obviously, the attack on our marines in Kuwait was a terrorist attack. The attack in Bali appears to be an Al-Qaida-type terrorist—definitely a terrorist attack, whether it's Al-Qaida-related or not—I would assume it is. And therefore, it does look like a pattern of attacks that the enemy, albeit on the run, is trying to once again frighten and kill freedom-loving people. And we've just got to understand, we are in a long struggle.

And I am absolutely determined now, as I was a year ago, to continue to rout out these

people, to find them, to use the best intelligence we can, and to bring them to justice. And we will continue to pursue.

Travel by U.S. Citizens

Q. With the alert that the State Department put out last week and now the decision to bring home American family—Embassy families, and urging travelers to come home from Indonesia, does this appear to be a time in which Americans worldwide ought to stay closer to home, if this is part of a new wave of terrorism?

The President. I think that all depends where, and I think they ought to take guidance from the State Department. But clearly, the State Department is reacting to this attack and reacted to some intelligence before. As you know, we're constantly putting out alerts when we get some kind of data that indicates our people overseas are at risk.

Yes.

Washington Area Sniper

Q. What about concerns of the last—[inaudible]—sniper attack—

The President. The sniper attacks—first of all, I'm just sick, sick to my stomach to think that there is a coldblooded killer at home taking innocent life. I weep for those who've lost their loved ones. I am—the idea of moms taking their kids to school and sheltering them from a potential sniper attack is not the America I know. And therefore, we're lending all the resources of the Federal Government, all that have been required, to do everything we can to assist the local law authorities to find this—whoever it is.

Q. [Inaudible].

The President. First of all, it is a form of terrorism, but in terms of the terrorism that we think of, we have no evidence one way or the other, obviously. But anytime anybody is randomly shooting, randomly killing, randomly taking life, it's coldblooded murder, and it's—it's a sick mind who obviously loves terrorizing society. And we're doing everything we can to capture whoever that might be and bring them to justice. And the Federal Government—I've been—I get briefed on it every morning. Bob Mueller, the head of the FBI, was in this morning and gave me a full briefing on what the FBI

knew, how we're helping, what we're doing. But it's obviously a terrible, terrible situation.

And I pray for the—I pray for the families who grieve and suffer. And I worry about a society where moms can't take their kids to school. And obviously, we're going to do everything we can to help the local authorities bring these people to justice.

U.N. Resolution on Iraq

Q. Mr. President, on the U.N. resolution—could I have a second one, sir?

The President. It's the new me. I'm answering all kinds of questions. [Laughter]

Q. Are you prepared to meet the French halfway on their concerns on the trigger of the use of force? Specifically, are you willing to drop the language that specifies the use of any and all means to—

The President. John, I think what's important is that, first of all, we are working with all parties to get a resolution done. I talked about it again—I talked to Tony Blair about that subject. What I'm interested in is making sure that Saddam Hussein is disarmed. He said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. It is in our national interest that he not have weapons of mass destruction. And anything we do must make it very clear that Saddam must disarm, or there will be consequences. And how that language is worked out is up to the diplomats.

But I am very firm in my desire to make sure that Saddam is disarmed. Hopefully, we can do this peacefully. The use of the military is my last choice, is my last desire. But doing nothing, allowing the status quo to go on, is unacceptable, particularly since we've got a new war on terror that we've—that was launched on September the 11th, 2001, particularly since oceans no longer protect America from people who hate us.

And so we'll see how it plays out. But I'm anxious to work with the international community. If I wasn't, I wouldn't have gone to the United Nations.

Q. Are you willing to be a little more oblique about that particular part of the language?

The President. Well, we'll just see how it comes. What I'm not—what I want is a firm resolution that says, "You disarm," and an inspection regime that is there not for the

sake of inspectors but is there to achieve the objective of disarming Mr. Saddam Hussein. It's his choice to make. And in order to make sure the resolution has got any kind of credence with Mr. Hussein, there has to be a consequence.

Randy [Randall Mikkelsen, Reuters].

Indonesian Cooperation on Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, are you satisfied with the cooperation you've gotten from Indonesia up until now in fighting terrorism?

The President. I will speak to Ms. Megawati soon. She is in Bali right now, and she is obviously grieving for her citizens that lost their lives. And I'm going to make it clear to her that we need to work together to find those who murdered all those innocent people and bring them to justice. And I hope I hear the resolve of a leader that recognizes that anytime terrorists take hold in the country, it's going to weaken the country, itself. And there has to be a firm and deliberate desire to find out—find the killers before they kill somebody else.

See, these are the kinds of people that, if they go unchallenged and don't feel like there's going to be any consequences, they will continue to kill. These are nothing but coldblooded killers. They do not value life the way we value life in the civilized world. They take no care for innocent life. They just blow up in the name of a religion which does not preach this kind of hatred or violence.

And the war we fight is a different kind of war. There will be times in which people settle in and say, "Well, gosh, there's nothing going on in the war," and then something like this happens, and it's a reminder about how dangerous the world can be if these Al Qaida are free to roam.

And so we're chasing them, and we're denying them sanctuary. We've made great progress in the war against terror. We've hauled in and/or killed a bunch of their leaders. There are still more out there. There are—the training camps that they have been using have been disrupted. We're doing a better job of cutting off their money. We've got them on the run, and we intend to keep them on the run. They are still lethal, and they are still dangerous.

Legislative Agenda

Q. Congress is about to go out, sir. What's the bare minimum you expect—

The President. When Congress goes out? Well, they—there's a lot of talk about job creation, and there should be. So what they ought to do is pass some bills that will help with jobs, like the terrorism insurance bill. There has been a lot of talking here in Washington on issues such as terrorism insurance, which clearly will help create the job base, expand the job base. And yet, with a couple of days to go, it's hard to tell whether or not they're going to get a bill to my desk.

The energy bill will be good for jobs. There ought to be an energy bill on my desk. And so I think—I think before they go home, I hope they recognize they can make a difference in job creation. They've also got to make sure they don't overspend. They need to make sure we have fiscal discipline. On the way out of town, if they have to do a CR, it ought to be a clean CR, and then if they feel like they need to come back, they can come back and deal with the appropriations process.

I'd also like to get the defense appropriations bill—it passed the House; it looks like it's going to pass the Senate soon, which is a very good sign. But you know, in 4 days time, no telling what's going to happen up here. Let's hope they get some constructive things done in terms of jobs.

Listen, thank you all.

Al Qaida/President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Q. Sir, could we ask you one more question, sir? Senator Graham last week said that the number one threat to this Nation still remains Al Qaida and questioned the wisdom about going after Saddam Hussein while Al Qaida remains the number one threat. Based on what's happened for the last week in terms of Yemen, Kuwait, and Bali, does it suggest that that argument does hold some water?

The President. I think they're both equally important, and they're both dangerous. And as I said in my speech in Cincinnati, we will fight, if need be, the war on terror on two fronts. We've got plenty of capacity to do so. And I also mentioned the fact that

there is a connection between Al Qaida and Saddam Hussein. The war on terror—Iraq is a part on the war on terror. And he must disarm.

And so I—I respect the opinion of a lot of people, and I respect his opinion. But if we don't deal with Saddam Hussein and disarm him—hopefully, it will be done peacefully—he becomes more and more dangerous. And someday we don't want to step back and say, "Where was the United States Government? How come we didn't act?" And we've got plenty of capacity to fight the war against Al Qaida, which is going to take a while. We just learned a lesson this weekend: It's going to take a while to succeed. And at the same time, the United Nations hopefully will pass—will show their strong desire to disarm Saddam, and we can get after it, get him disarmed before he hurts America. And I'm absolutely confident we can achieve both objectives, John.

Listen, thank you all.

Q. Does this constitute a press conference?

The President. Absolutely. The difference between this news conference and the one in the East Room is, you didn't get to put makeup on. *[Laughter]*

Q. You didn't—

The President. Of course I didn't. But—that was an unnecessary cheap shot. I apologize. It's a Columbus Day cheap shot. *[Laughter]* See you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister John Howard of Australia; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia.

Remarks to the Community in Waterford, Michigan

October 14, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thanks for coming today. I want to thank you all for—

Audience member. We love you! We love you! We love you!

The President. Glad I came. I want to thank you all for coming. I particularly want to thank you all for bringing—if you have children, thanks for bringing them. I appreciate the chance to remind our youngsters what a great country we have. I appreciate the chance—I appreciate the chance to remind them that although we've got some issues and we've got some challenges, there's no doubt in my mind this great Nation you call home can accomplish anything—I mean anything—we set our mind to.

So thanks for coming. I appreciate your interest in your State and in the political process of your State. I've come back to Michigan because I know that Dick Posthumus will make a great Governor of Michigan. And I'm here to ask you to help him get elected. I'm here to ask you to go to your coffee shops or your houses of worship or your neighborhood community centers and talk it up about this good man; to tell the people in your community, whether they be Republican, Democrat, independent—don't care—that when it comes to running the State of Michigan, he's got what it takes. He's got the character; he's got the leadership capacity.

And just like me, he married well. I know that Pam Posthumus will be a fine first lady. Speaking about fine First Ladies—yes, she's doing fine. She sends her best to the good folks of Michigan. I saw her waving from the balcony when I choppered out of the White House grounds. She's doing just great. I can't tell you how proud I am of Laura.

You might remember the story—when I asked her to marry me, she was a public school librarian. Truth of the matter is, she didn't particularly care for politics—*[laughter]*—didn't like politicians. *[Laughter]* Now, here she is—*[laughter]*—the First Lady. What a fabulous job she's done. She's brought great dignity and calm and class to the White House.

I love her a lot. I love her a lot, and she's doing just great. People now understand why I asked her to marry me. A lot of her friends are wondering why in the heck she said yes. *[Laughter]* But we're doing great.

I want to thank many of you for your prayers. I appreciate that a lot. It's a huge honor to be the President of a country that prays

for the President and the First Lady. We feel the prayers, and we appreciate them.

I also want to urge you all to make sure that the United States Congress stays in friendly hands, that Denny Hastert is the Speaker, a Congress with which I can work. And that means sending Thaddeus McCotter to the United States Congress. It means sending Candice Miller to the United States Congress. It means making sure a fine sitting Congressman, Joe Knollenberg, gets sent back to the United States Congress.

I appreciate Joe's leadership, and I know that Thaddeus and Candice will do a fine job on behalf of all the people of Michigan, not just a few but everybody. And that's what's important. When you're looking at these people running for office, you've got—you've got to understand that our jobs are not to represent a small segment of society. We're to lay out our principles and our values and represent everybody. And that's what I like about these candidates.

I'm also proud to be traveling with a former United States Senator, now a member of my Cabinet, and that would be Spence Abraham. Spence, thank you for coming. You know, it's a sad day when he lost for the Senate. It hurt Michigan—it gave me a chance to put somebody good in the Cabinet. *[Laughter]* And he's doing a fine job working on an incredibly important issue, about which I'll speak in a second, and that's energy.

But let me tell you one thing. If we had him in the Senate, if we had people like Spence in the Senate, there would be no question today about my judges getting confirmed.

The Senate is doing a lousy job on my judge nominations. They're treating this like it's politics, not what's good for the country. You see, we need judges who will serve, not to write legislation. We've got plenty of legislators. We need judges who will strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States sitting on our benches.

No, I heard a lot of reasons why we need to change the Senate, but one of them is to make sure that the Federal bench represents the way you want them to serve their jobs. We need a Senate change, and that's why you've got to put Rocky in the United States

Senate. Hey, Rocky, good luck to you. You should never count out a guy named Rocky.

I also want to thank my friend Brooks Patterson. Brooksie is from—been in politics quite a while. I got to know him in the 1988 campaign. I liked him then; I still like him now. And I appreciate him coming to say hello.

I want to thank all the grassroots activists, the people who are manning the phone banks, the people who do the jobs that nobody thanks you for doing. Well, I'm here to thank you. I appreciate your hard work, and I appreciate your love for your country.

I want to thank those who are seeking office, like Loren Bennett and Terri Lynn Land and Mike Cox, all fine candidates, to make sure this Republican ticket—*[applause]*.

Let me tell you why it's important to have a Governor who knows what he's doing. I know something about being a Governor. The most important job for a Governor is to make sure every single child gets a good education. That's what Dick Posthumus understands.

But it takes a certain kind of attitude to make sure every child gets a good education. It starts with understanding that every child can learn, and to have leadership willing to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. You see, if you believe certain kids can't learn and you have low standards, then you're going to get lousy results. You've got to understand every child can learn. You better make sure your Governor understands every child can learn. And then you'd better make sure the Governor trusts the local people, all around Michigan, to chart the path for excellence. One size doesn't fit all when it comes to running the Michigan schools.

One of the things that's really important, if you believe every child can learn, then you want to ask the question, is every child learning? If you believe every child can learn to read and write and add and subtract, then you want to know that. And as a State, I hope you'll have a Governor who is willing to ask that question and holding the people accountable.

You see, the worst thing that can happen is for people to believe every child can't learn, and they just shuffle them through the system. "Let's just move them on. Certain

kids can't learn"—any city—"Inner-city kids," they say, "might be too tough to educate. We'll just move them along. Children whose parents don't speak English as a first language, they're tough to educate. We'll just move them along." We can't accept that in Michigan. We can't accept that anywhere in America. You must measure in this State. You must have strong accountability systems to test whether or not the curriculum is working, to test whether the teachers are teaching. You must understand that you've got to measure to make sure not one child gets left behind.

And when you find children in schools that won't teach and won't change, you better have you a Governor who is willing to challenge the status quo, for the sake of the children. And that Governor is Dick Posthumus.

Not only—listen, we're worried about people who can't find work. At least I am, and I know Dick is as well. Anytime we've got anybody in Michigan or anywhere in America looking for work and can't find work, it's a problem, and we have to deal with it. And that makes sure—that means you've got to make sure you've got a Governor who understands the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the small business can grow to be a big business, in which the entrepreneurs can find the entrepreneurial spirit.

And that's why it's so important to have a Governor who is willing to hold the taxes down in order to make sure businesses can grow, so people can find work.

No, you've got the right man in Dick Posthumus. He knows what he's doing. He's going to make a fine Governor for the State of Michigan.

I want to share with you some of my concerns about our country. The character of our country doesn't concern me. The ability for our country to solve problems doesn't concern me. But I am concerned about an economy not doing as good as we want it to do. I am concerned about an economy that was in recession, that got affected by the terrorist attack. I am concerned about a society in which some of the members of our society thought it was okay to fudge the numbers, thought it was okay not to tell the truth when it came to profits and losses, thought it was

okay to mistreat employee and shareholder alike. Those days are gone from America.

Corporate malfeasance has had an effect on our economy, and we need to do something about it. That's why I was honored to sign the most comprehensive corporate reform legislation since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. The message is clear now. The message is clear to people who should know better. If you think you're going to find easy money in this country, you're wrong. What you're going to find is hard time if you cheat the people.

But there are some things Congress can do before they go home to help the working people of this country. See, they're fixing to go home. But they need to act. One of the things you'll find about Washington—or at least I found about it—there's a lot of good talkers—[laughter]—and not enough good doers.

They're talking a good game up there. They're worried about the jobs, and so am I. So in order to make sure people can find work, there are some practical things Congress can do. And let me give you a couple of suggestions. One is, is that there's a lot of hardhats not working because the people can't find terrorism insurance. If you want to build a big project and you can't get insurance because of what the terrorists have done for America, you're going to put the project aside.

There's over \$15 billion of construction projects which are on hold, which aren't going forward, which means there's over 300,000 jobs that would be in place or soon to be in place that aren't in place. And so in my judgment, is—what Congress ought to do is, they ought to pass legislation to serve as a backdrop for terrorist insurance. They ought to serve as a backstop. If the terrorist don't attack, it hasn't cost anybody anything. If the terrorists attack, it'll help our economy recover quicker.

For the sake of jobs, however, they need to get moving. There's too much talk in Washington, DC.

And one of the stumbling blocks is whether or not they care more about the hardhat or the trial lawyer. We stand on the side of the hardhats in America, the hard-working people. And therefore, get me a terrorism

insurance bill that recognizes their hard work and the need to get these people back to work.

We need an energy bill in America. We need an energy bill. Spence has been working on one, a balanced, comprehensive approach that says we need to do a better job of conserving energy; we need to unleash new technologies to make sure that we become less dependent on foreign sources of crude. But we need to explore in an environmentally friendly way here at home. Listen, the less energy we use from countries that may not like us, the more secure we are nationally. An energy bill will be good for jobs. An energy bill is important for our national security. They've been talking about that energy bill up there now for about a year. Before they go home, they need to get the energy bill to my desk.

Let me tell you what else the Congress needs to do. The Congress needs to understand that when a person has more money in their pocket, they're likely to demand a good or service. And when they demand a good or a service, in this society, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work.

The tax relief plan which we passed through the United States Congress came at the right time in American economic history. When your economy is slow, you let people keep more of their own money. That's the opposite of what some of them think up there. You see, they have—when they want to have a summit—you know what the summit means to me? It means after the elections, they're going to figure out a way to raise your taxes; that's what a summit means to me. And so, therefore, if Congress really wants to make sure the job base continues to expand, what they'll do is make the tax cuts permanent. Now, that's already—you say, "Well, Mr. President, aren't they already permanent?" No. Here's what happened.

In the United States Senate, they have a rule that says on the one hand, we giveth, and on the other hand, we taketh away. [*Laughter*] It's hard to explain, but that's just what happened. Which means that the tax relief plan we passed—and it's phased in over 10 years—after 10 years goes back to the way

it was. It's hard to plan that way. If you're a small-business owner, you need to have certainty in the Tax Code. If you're somebody who is going to risk capital, you need to have certainty in the Tax Code. For the sake of economic growth, for the sake of job creation, the United States Congress must make the tax cuts permanent.

I made a decision the other day to help Michigan workers and help workers all across the country by invoking Taft-Hartley to open up the ports on our west coast. They couldn't get together; workers couldn't get together, and the shippers couldn't get together. And their ship—they were locking down the ports. And that hurt manufacturers here in Michigan, and it hurt Michigan farmers, and it's going to hurt Michigan's consumers if it went on too long. For the sake of jobs, for the sake of job creation, I put the—I said, "Get back to work for 80 days, and come together, for the sake of our country, during these tough economic times. We expect you to resolve your differences so people in other parts of the country won't suffer."

Until I'm satisfied that people can find work, I'm going to stay on the economy. I'm going to keep working with Congress, if need be, working with the American people, to do everything we can to keep our economy going. We've got good—we've got the foundation for growth, by the way. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. We've got the best workers in the world. We've got the highest productivity in the world. The foundation for growth is strong. We've just got to keep working until we're satisfied that people can find work.

And my biggest preoccupation, my biggest worry is that there's still an enemy out there which hates America, an enemy which still wants to take innocent life. Recently we've seen what I'm talking about, in Bali. There was a coldblooded attack. Innocent people, from all around the world, by the way—an American, at least we know of one or two Americans, many Australians, English—innocent people, enjoying themselves at a resort. And a bunch of coldblooded killers decided to take life, to take innocent life, just like they did on September the 11th, 2001.

It's a stark reminder that there's an enemy which hates freedom-loving countries, an

enemy which does not value human life like we value human life here in America. See, in this country, every life is precious; everybody has got meaning; everybody has got worth.

No, the attack on the French boat, which was, I believe, a terrorist attack, the attack at the resort, the attack on our marines in Kuwait shows that there's still an enemy which is active out there. And therefore, my biggest worry is to make sure we do everything we can to continue to protect America, to save innocent life.

And so therefore, I've asked Congress to join me in developing a Department of Homeland Security, a Department which will take the agencies involved with protecting the homeland security, putting them under one umbrella so that the focus will be your protection, so that the number one priority will be the protection of the American people. We made progress in the House, but we're stuck in the Senate. We're stuck in the Senate because some Senators want there to be a big, thick book of bureaucratic regulations to tell this administration and future administrations how to run the Department.

I'll give you an example. On the border, we need to know who is coming in and what they're bringing when they come in and whether or not they're leaving when they say they're going to leave. And yet we've got three different agencies on the border, full of fine people, by the way. You've got your Customs and INS and the Border Patrol. Yet in some sectors, they've got different strategies. They wear different uniforms. They've got different tasks. For the sake of homeland security, any administration ought to have the flexibility to put the agencies together or to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect the American people. The Senate version doesn't let me do that.

People ought to be able to organize if they want to organize. There ought to be collective bargaining, and that's fine with me. But for the sake of national security, I ought to have the capacity, on a limited basis, to say our national security is more important than some collective bargaining rights.

And I'll give you an example. Let me give you an example. Our Customs, they ought to be wearing radiation detection devices to

determine whether somebody is trying to sneak a weapon of mass destruction into America. The leadership of that particular group of people said, "No way. We need to have a collective bargaining session over whether or not our people should be made to wear these devices." And that could take a long period of time. We don't have time, when it comes to an enemy. We need to have the flexibility to run this Department so I can assure you.

But the best way to protect the homeland is to hunt these killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do. That's exactly what we're going to do. You know, they—I don't know what went through their minds when they hit us. They probably thought after September the 11th, 2001, we'd take a step back and file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]* See, they didn't understand about America. They don't understand that we love freedom. We don't embrace freedom; we love freedom, and nobody is going to take our freedoms away from us.

No, they probably thought that we were so selfish and self-absorbed and materialistic that after they hit us, we would try to understand them—*[laughter]*—take a step back, and maybe get them some therapy. *[Laughter]* As we've seen this weekend, as we've seen in the past, there's only one therapy, and that's to bring them to justice, which is exactly what the United States is going to do.

This is a different kind of war; it's a different kind of war. In the old days, you could measure progress based upon the number of tanks destroyed or aircraft shot out of the sky or ships that were sunk. This is a different kind of war. We face a shadowy enemy. They're real. They're tough. They are determined. But their leaders will hide in caves and send their young warriors to their suicidal death. It's a different kind of enemy we face.

And sometimes you'll see progress on your TV screens, and sometimes you're just not going to see what's happening. A different kind of battle we face. But you've got to know we're making progress. We're making steady progress. I bet you we have hauled in—I say

“we,” by the way, the doctrine that says, “Either you’re with them, or you’re with us,” still stands. Either you’re with the United States of America, or you’re with the enemy.

And we’re making progress. A couple of thousand have been hauled in. Slowly but surely, we’re dismantling this terrorist network. Sure, they’re still out there, but they’re not nearly as strong as they were a year ago. Slowly but surely, we’re hauling them in. And a like number weren’t as lucky as those who were captured; like number met their justice a different way. And we’re still on them. We will continue to deny them training bases. We will continue to try to deny them sanctuary anywhere. We’re going to keep getting them on the run. Slowly but surely, no matter how long it takes, my fellow Americans, we will do what it takes to make the homeland secure and to free the American people from terror.

And that’s why I sent to Congress a significant increase in our defense spending, and I want to explain why. Any time we put one of our youngsters into harm’s way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

We owe that to our soldiers. We owe that to the loved ones of our soldiers. And if there are any loved ones out there, I can’t tell you how proud I am of our military, how confident I am of my military, and how good our military is. Thank you for coming.

I also asked for a big increase in defense spending because I wanted to send a message to our friend and to our foe that we ain’t quitting. We’re just not going to quit when it comes to defending America. It doesn’t matter how long it takes. We don’t have a calendar on my desk—there’s not a calendar on my desk in the great Oval Office that flips to, you know, flip it one day and it says, oh, it’s time to quit. That’s just not the way we think in America. We understand the task. We understand it’s a different kind of war. We understand it requires patience and to be steadfast in purpose, and that’s exactly the way this Nation is going to remain. We will pursue the enemy no matter where he tries to hide, no matter what cave he’s in, no matter what city he hides in, until justice is done.

And the war on terror is just not Al Qaida. There are other terrorists around. There are

other threats to our country with which we must deal. And that means—and one place is Iraq. I want to—let me share with you some thoughts, a serious, serious, subject. It’s one that’s got a lot of folks debating in the coffee shops or in the homes about Iraq. I want to remind you of a couple of things.

First of all, 11 years ago this leader of Iraq, the dictator of Iraq, made a pledge that he would not have weapons of mass destruction. He promised the world after he got whipped that he wouldn’t have weapons of mass destruction. And the Security Council of the United Nations passed a resolution which said, “You won’t have weapons of mass destruction.” Since that time, he has lied; he has deceived; he has not listened to the U.N. Security Council resolutions. Since that time, we now recognize as a country that oceans no longer protect us like they used to. A new reality set in, in America. It used to be we could kind of sit back and look at a threat from afar and say, “Well, that may affect somebody else, but it doesn’t affect us.”

Prior to September the 11th, we had the comfort of realizing or looking back in history and saying that we’re pretty safe here in America. Others may be threatened—after all, he attacked two in his neighborhood; he gassed his own people—but not us. September the 11th changed the equation, changed our thinking. It also changed our thinking when we began to realize that one of the most dangerous things that can happen in the modern era is for a deceiving dictator who has gassed his own people, who has weapons of mass destruction, to team up with an organization like Al Qaida.

As I said—I was a little more diplomatic in my speech, but we need to think about Saddam Hussein using Al Qaida to do his dirty work, to not leave fingerprints behind. I went to the United Nations. I did so because I wanted to challenge that body. Sixteen resolutions, sixteen defiances: They passed resolution after resolution after resolution, and 16 times Saddam Hussein has defied those resolutions. For the sake of keeping peace, it’s important that there be an international body that has backbone, that can work to keep the peace in this new era we’re in. And now is the time for choice. The United Nations can decide whether it’s

the League of Nations or whether or not it is a United Nations capable of keeping the peace.

There is universal agreement that Saddam Hussein poses a serious threat. He's a threat to the neighborhood. He's a threat to our allies. There is universal understanding that right after the Gulf war he was close to having a nuclear weapon. He still wants to have a nuclear weapon. For the sake of peace, for the sake of our security, now is the time to make sure that Saddam says what he said he would do. He must disarm. It's his choice to make. He said he would disarm. He must disarm. The U.N. said he must disarm. They can disarm him.

But for the sake of security of our country—their choice to make—I hope it's done peacefully. I hope we never use a military—one military troop in Iraq. But for the sake of the peace and security of the United States, Saddam Hussein must disarm, or the United States with friends and allies will disarm him.

I say that because I want there to be peace. I speak as a man who has a goal for the world, and that's peace. I believe out of the evil done to America can come a peaceful world. There'll be some tough times, no question about it. But if we remain strong and resolved, if we hold dear to the principles, the God-given principles and values that we hold dear to our hearts—the principle of freedom, that every life counts, that people should be free—if we hold that dear and remain strong, we can achieve peace, and I hope we do. That's my goal. The enemy thinks that they can cause America to retreat from our obligations. We're not. They believe we'll cower in the face of their coldblooded murder. We won't.

And out of the evil done to this great country and now out of the evil being done elsewhere, we can achieve peace. We've been given an opportunity to lead the world to peace.

And at home, we can have a better America, too. We can have a better America. There are people who hurt in America. There are pockets of despair and loneliness, people who are addicted, people who wonder whether or not the American Dream is meant for them. So long as some of us hurt,

we all hurt in this country. But I'm absolutely convinced that as a nation we can rise up, not only to keep the peace and make it secure but rise up to make America a better place, a more hopeful place, a place of love and compassion. If you want to help, if you want to help in the war against terror, if you want to fight evil, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

There are things Government can do to help people, to empower people. Government needs to trust citizens. It starts with making sure everybody has a good education. We need to also make sure our medical systems are modern. Listen, Medicare is an incredibly important program. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. Medicine is modern. Medicare isn't. For the sake of our seniors, for the sake of a better life in America, our seniors need to have a Medicare program that gives them choices and gives them prescription drug benefits.

We need to make sure, as we authorize welfare, to understand the whole—the reason welfare works, the reason welfare reform works is because we help people find work. Work is the backbone of the welfare system. It ought to remain the backbone of a good welfare system. People get dignity when they find work. They're less dependent on a Government that can sap their soul and drain their spirit.

There are things Government can do to make America a better place but not nearly as importantly as what our fellow Americans can do to make America a better place. Government can hand out money, but what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's up to our fellow Americans.

Today we've got with us Lenny Compton. Lenny is in his second year—right here, Lenny—he's in his second year as AmeriCorps. Let me tell you about him. You know what he does? He mentors a child. He mentors kids in the first, second, and third grade. He understands one person can't do everything to change America, but one person can do something. One person can help change America, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. I want to thank you, Lenny.

And that's what we need to do to show the enemy the true nature of America. Each of us can be that one person, helping somebody in need. It doesn't require a lot. Listen, walking across the street to a shut-in, saying "I love you" on a regular basis, is what I'm talking about. Running a Boy Scout troop is what I'm talking about. Being involved with a Girl—Girls Clubs and Boys Clubs, going to your church or your synagogue or your mosque and helping feed the hungry and find shelter for the homeless. It's all a part of the great fabric of America. In order to fight evil, do some good—do some good.

One of the things that's happening in America as a result of the attack by the enemy is that people are taking a good, hard look at what's important in life. We're beginning to have a cultural shift, it seems like to me. I want to be a part of that shift. It's a shift away from a culture that has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a new era that says, "Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life."

If you are a mom or a dad, if you're lucky enough to be a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving that child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're living in Oakland County, you're responsible for the quality of education. If you're dissatisfied with the quality of education, do something about it. If you're satisfied, go hug a teacher, and thank him or her for doing such an important job.

No, I think it's happening. I think people are beginning to understand that being a patriot is more than just putting your hand over your heart. Being a patriot is working to make America a more compassionate and decent and hopeful place.

No, I think it's happening. I remember and will never forget what took place on Flight 93. We had average citizens flying across the country. All of a sudden they became aware of the new reality, that America was under attack. They were on the phones to their loved ones. The word "love" was used a lot. They said goodbye. They said a prayer. They asked for blessing from an Almighty. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to save life. These

Americans understood that being a patriot was to serve something greater than yourself in life.

No, the American spirit is strong and alive. There's no doubt in my mind, my friends and fellow Americans, no doubt in my mind that we can achieve peace, no doubt in my mind that we can secure our homeland. There is no doubt in my mind that we can educate our children and provide a hopeful future for everybody who is living here in America. And the reason I say that is because I say with the utmost of confidence that this is the finest nation, full of the finest people, on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:49 p.m. at Oakland County International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to gubernatorial candidate Dick Posthumus; Thaddeus McCotter, candidate for Michigan's 11th Congressional District; Candice Miller, candidate for Michigan's 10th Congressional District; senatorial candidate Andrew "Rocky" Raczkowski; L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive; Loren Bennett and Terri Lynn Land, candidates for Michigan secretary of state; Mike Cox, candidate for Michigan attorney general; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on Northern Ireland

October 14, 2002

I support the difficult but necessary decision today by British Prime Minister Tony Blair to suspend the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly. I welcome the commitment of Prime Minister Blair and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern to restore confidence between the parties and peoples of Northern Ireland, hold elections, and reinstate powersharing as soon as is possible.

I join their condemnation of sectarianism and violence and echo their call for all parties to make unequivocal their commitment to exclusively peaceful and democratic means for pursuing their interests. There is simply no place for paramilitaries in a democratic society. I also applaud the two Governments' recognition of the central importance of policing and the need for continued policing reform.

I welcome the continued close cooperation of the British and Irish Governments as they work toward the full implementation of the Good Friday agreement. The United States stands ready to assist their efforts. I appeal to everyone in Northern Ireland to recognize the great benefits that the agreement has already secured. The Good Friday agreement remains the best framework for a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

**Remarks at a Dinner for
Congressional Candidate Thaddeus
McCotter in Dearborn, Michigan**

October 14, 2002

Thank you all. Congressman, thank you. I appreciate you all coming. I'm here to help the Republican Party. I'm here to help Dick Posthumus get elected. I'm here to make it clear that Thaddeus McCotter needs to be the next Congressman from this district.

Anybody who would name his son George—[laughter]—in this case, George T.—I appreciate the chance to meet the family. I want to thank the McCotters for coming. He's got a great wife and three wonderful children. I appreciate a man who has got his priorities straight, and that is his faith and his family and his country. And I appreciate you all coming to help him.

We had a big rally earlier today, and Thaddeus was there and so was the next Governor of the State of Michigan, Dick Posthumus. I told the folks in—I mean, there was a couple of thousand people there, and I told them that it's important to do what they are good at doing, which is put signs in the ground and dial the phones and put out the mailers. We're getting close to grassroots politics time.

For those of you who are involved in the grassroots of Michigan politics, I want to thank you for what you're going to do, not only what you have done but what's going to take place over the next couple of weeks, and that is to work hard to turn out a big vote. To turn out a vote for the next Governor, the next Congressman is really important. There's no doubt in my mind these two men are going to win, and they're only going to win with your help. So thanks for coming.

Thanks for your care about your State and your country.

I'm so grateful that my buddy the Governor of Michigan is here, John Engler. I appreciate his strong service to Michigan. We both did a very smart thing: We both married girls from Texas. [Laughter] We both married above ourselves. [Laughter] And speaking about girls from Texas, Laura sends her love to many of you here that we got to know during the course of our campaign. She's doing great. She's strong, and she's calm when she needs to be calm. She's a fabulous wife, a great mother, and she's doing a wonderful job as our First Lady. I'm really proud of her.

I want to thank the Members from the U.S. Congress who are here with us today. I particularly want to thank Mike Rogers for working hard to make sure this event was successful. Mike, thanks for your hard work, thanks for your support. I think Peter Hoekstra is here somewhere. I don't know if they let people in from the western part of the State or not? [Laughter] Where are you, Peter? Good to see you, Congressman. Thanks for coming—a fine U.S. Congressman. I know Vern Ehlers is here. Vern, I'm honored you're here. Thanks for coming. I appreciate—good to see you, sir. I think Joe Knollenberg is still here. I hope he is. Hey, Joe, thanks. I appreciate you, Congressman. Dave Camp, Congressman Camp is with us today, I think. Oh, hi, Dave. Thanks for coming.

I think that's all the members of the congressional team from Michigan that are here. I've got to tell you, they're fine Members of the Congress. I appreciate their friendship. I appreciate their strong support on key issues. We've had great success in the House of Representatives and a lot of it had to do with the leadership of the folks from Michigan. You're well represented. My call is to make sure they go back.

My call is to make sure we continue to hold the House. My call is to remind you it's important to have a Speaker like Denny Hastert, who will make a huge difference for the people of Michigan and the people of our country. And one way to do it is to not only reelect those who have already won but to make sure Thad McCotter gets elected

to the United States House as well—and Candice Miller.

I know the speaker of the house is here. I want to thank Rick Johnson for coming. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your coming. In the limousine on the way here, the next Governor and I were talking about how the house races look great here in Michigan and that he looks forward to working with you, Mr. Speaker, and a good, solid Republican majority to do what's right for the people of Michigan.

I'm also honored that Betsy DeVos is here. Betsy, I appreciate your tireless work on behalf of the Republican Party. I appreciate you coming. Michael Kojaian, he's a wonderful friend and a good man who has been a hard worker to make sure events such as these are successful. And Michael, I appreciate you coming.

We've got a lot of work to do in Washington, DC. And that's why I'm so—want to be involved with these House races. We've got to make sure the country is a stronger country and a safer country and a better country. And to make sure America is a stronger country, we've got to work to make sure that people can find a job. You know, anytime there's a place where somebody is looking for work and can't find work, it is a problem, and we've got to deal with it.

But the best way to deal with it is to elect people to Congress who understand the role of Government. The role of Government is not to try to create wealth; the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses, in which people feel comfortable risking capital. The people in the U.S. Congress from Michigan understand that. Thaddeus understands that. It's important to get him elected.

You hear a lot of talk about tax relief. Here's the page of the textbook that we've been reading in Washington, at least those of us who agreed with the tax relief plan. It says this: "If you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service in the marketplace, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good

or service, somebody is more likely to find work"—if you're interested in jobs.

The tax relief plan we passed in Washington came at the—exactly the right time. The country was in recession. We needed to stimulate the economy. We needed to get the economics of the country on the right track. We needed people to be able to find work. Tax relief was vital. Not only was the tax relief plan good for the creation of small business and the enhancement of the entrepreneurial spirit, the tax relief plan also recognized that we want to encourage marriage in families through the Tax Code, not discourage it, and we slashed the marriage penalty in the tax relief.

We also did one other thing that was helpful to the farmers of Michigan, the ranchers all across the country, the small-business owners, the entrepreneurs, the first time capitalists, and that is, we put the death tax on the way to extinction.

But we're still having to talk about the issue because the rules of the United States Senate are such that the tax relief plan that—it lasts for 10 years. And after 10 years, it reverts to—back to the way it was. And yes, 2001, it's like the Senate giveth, and the Senate taketh away. That's a hard one to explain in Crawford, Texas, or anywhere else, for that matter.

And so the issue really is, and Thaddeus understands this, for the sake of job creation, we need certainty in the Tax Code. For the sake of an expanding economy, we need to make sure that our entrepreneurs understand what's happening. For the sake of families, we need permanency. For the sake of people being able to pass their assets on to whom they want, we need permanency. The Congress needs to make the tax cuts permanent.

There are some other things that need to happen in Congress to make sure people can find work. We're debating a terrorism insurance bill. I'm not debating it. I'm watching the debate. I'm amazed that the debate is still going on. There are \$15 billion of construction projects which have been put on hold because people can't get terrorism insurance. The terrorists hit us; they raised the price of insurance. They made it basically extinct. And what the Congress needs to do

is serve as a backstop and serve as a guarantor for terrorism insurance to get these projects moving again.

If the enemy doesn't attack, it doesn't cost anything. If the enemy does attack, it'll help keep order in our economy. It makes sense. There are 300,000 hardhats' jobs waiting to go forward. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of getting good people to work, we need a terrorism insurance bill. We need a bill that rewards the hardhats and not the trial lawyers of America.

Traveling with me today is one of my finest Cabinet Secretaries—perhaps it's because he cut his teeth in Michigan politics—and that's Spence Abraham. I appreciate Spence coming. He's somewhere around. There he is, and Jane is with him, too, who's a fine, fine soul. Thanks for coming, Jane.

The reason I bring up Spence is because, one, I want to brag on him, what a good job he's doing. But also a job bill is an energy bill. A good energy bill will help with jobs. Spence has been working hard to get the Congress to come together to get an energy bill out that encourages conservation, encourages the use of renewables, that fires up new technologies necessary to achieve national objectives, which is less dependence on foreign sources of crude and cleaner air—things we believe can happen.

But he and I also agree we need to be—explore for more energy at home. And yet, there's talk—just like the terrorism insurance bill—all they're doing is talking. They need to get the bill to my desk for the sake of jobs and for the sake of national security. We need to have an energy bill in America. And Spence, I want to thank you for your hard work.

By the way, looking at Spence or just thinking about Spence—looking at him too—reminds me of why we need to take the Senate back. I've named really good people to the bench. One of my most awesome responsibilities and important responsibilities is to find good, honorable Americans who will serve as Federal judges, people who will use the bench to strictly interpret the Constitution, people who will not use the bench to rewrite law. We've got plenty of legislators in Washington.

And this Senate has done a lousy job with my nominees. The percentage of people confirmed is way below those confirmed under President Clinton or President Bush or President Reagan. They're playing politics. I named good, strong people up there, and they distort their records. The American people deserve better. The nominees for the bench I've named deserve better. For the sake of a good, sound judiciary, we need to change the United States Senate.

Congress is fixing to leave town, and the Senate doesn't have a budget. One of the things that can serve as an anchor to economic vitality is if the Congress overspends. They need to be mindful about whose money they spend in Washington. They're not spending the Government's money. They're spending your money. The Members of the House of Representatives who are with us tonight and Thaddeus understands that, that they spend the people's money, that we've got to set priorities, be wise about how we use the people's money.

Listen, without a budget, there's no telling what's going to happen in Washington, DC. Every idea up there sounds like a brilliant idea. The problem is, every brilliant idea costs billions of dollars. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of economic security in this country, the United States Congress must be wise with the people's money. They must fund the priorities, and they must not overspend.

I want you all to know, I look forward to working with the Congress to get some things done. I hope the Congress responds. They've got 4 days before they go home. They can help with the jobs. And I won't rest so long as people are looking for work. I'm an optimistic fellow because I know that the fundamentals are strong. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. We've got the highest productivity rates in a long time. We've got great workers. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong. But there are people who hurt. And so long as people hurt, I'm going to be—I'm going to be paying attention to the economy and doing anything I can to help people find work.

We did make a great stride, by the way, toward increasing confidence in our economy. You know, we had a recession, and then

we had the enemy attack. And then we had one other attack on the confidence of the American people. We had some citizens in our country who felt like they didn't need to tell the truth when it came to corporate numbers. We had some people who forgot the awesome responsibility of being a chief executive officer or a chief financial officer. I worked with Members of the House in both political parties. I had the honor of signing the most comprehensive corporate reform bill—corporate reform legislation since Franklin Roosevelt was the President.

And the message is pretty simple and very profound. If you find yourself in a position of responsibility, we expect you to tell the truth. We expect you to treat your employees and your shareholders with respect. If you think you're going to find easy money in the American system, all you're going to end up doing is finding hard time.

The other thing I'm going to think about—I think about a lot, constantly about, and that Thaddeus and I and other Members will be working on, is how to secure the homeland of America. The enemy is active, and they hate. The attacks in Indonesia that needlessly killed hundreds of people serve as a stark reminder that there's still an enemy which kills with impunity, an enemy which does not value innocent life. The attacks on the French vessel in Yemen shows there's an enemy willing to use any kind of device to attack those of us who love freedom. They're active. They're resilient, and they continue to hate.

And they hate because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the fact that in this great country people can worship an almighty God any way they see fit. We love that. We love the fact that people can have honest, open political discourse in a free society. We love free press. We love everything about freedom, and we're not changing.

And so long as we love freedom, as much as we love freedom, the enemy will try to hurt America and hurt our friends and hurt our allies. And so our biggest job is to secure the homeland. It's to do everything we can, to use every resource at our fingertips to protect the American people from potential harm.

You need to know, there's a lot of really good folks at the Federal level who are doing just that, and good folks at the State and local level as well. I mean, anytime we're getting a hint, we're moving on it. Anytime we're getting a suggestion that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America, we're responding, within the U.S. Constitution. We hold that document sacred.

But we're responding. We're disrupting. We're denying. We're sharing intelligence better than ever before. The doctrine that says, "You're either with the United States, or you're against us," still stands. It's a doctrine which is even more important today, perhaps, than right after September the 11th, because the attacks go on. We cannot do this war alone. We constantly remind other nations that if they love freedom like we love freedom, they'll be under attack.

I went to the United States Congress to ask them to help me create a Department of Homeland Security. I did so because I want to be in a position where I can assure the American people, we're doing everything in our power to protect America. The House responded quickly. After a good, solid debate, the House came with a really good piece of legislation.

The Senate is stuck. The Senate is stuck because some Members feel like it's the Senate duty to micromanage the process. They have passed a law that—or they think they're going to pass a law—they won't, but they're trying to pass the law—it's why the President has a veto pen—that will have a thick book of bureaucratic regulations and hamstringing the capacity of this administration and future administrations to respond to potential terrorist threats.

I'll give you two examples of what I'm talking about, so you'll understand the debate. One, customs agents ought to be wearing radiological detection devices. They ought to wear those, so that if somebody is trying to sneak a weapons of mass destruction into the country, somebody on duty will have a device indicating that a weapon of mass destruction is coming in. We proposed that. The union representing the workers said, "No, we're not going to have that. You can't have mandatory use of a radiological detection device. It must

be voluntary, otherwise we're going to take you to collective bargaining."

We don't have time to bargain collectively over an issue like that. I believe in collective bargaining for people. I believe they ought to be able to go to unions if they want to. But for the sake of national security, some of these rules need to be put aside. Some of the work rules that will make it difficult for us to be able to protect the American people.

Every President since Jimmy Carter has the capacity to suspend collective bargaining for national security purposes. And yet, here we are at war, and the Senate is debating a bill, and they now want to take that power away from this President. And that's not right. I need to be able to put the right people at the right place with the right equipment at the right time to protect America. And the Senate must understand that.

I hope we get a good bill. They're going home in 4 days. I expect there to be a bill. I look forward to continuing to work, but I want you to know that I'm not only speaking for this administration, I'm speaking for future administrations. It doesn't make any sense for the Department of Homeland Security not to have that—for me to have the capacity to deal with the home—the Department of Homeland Security in the same way that I can deal with the Department of Agriculture. And so I expect the Senate to finish the debate and get a bill. Hopefully we can get it out of conference before you go home. It's important.

The best way to protect the homeland is to find this enemy, wherever he hides, and bring him to justice, to hunt them down one by one. I say "hunt them down one by one" because that's the nature of the war we're in. In the old days you'd go after platoons or battalions or aircraft or fleets. They don't have fleets. They don't have battalions. They've got coldblooded killers who hide in caves. They hijack a wonderful religion, and they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. But you've got to know, there's not a cave deep enough for the justice of America. There's not a corner of the world in which we're not going to shine light, because we love our freedom, because we believe in the

values, and we hold those—of America, and hold them dear to our heart.

We're making progress. We are. We've done a heck of a lot of work, made good progress at dismantling the Al Qaida terrorist network. After all, they used to run a country. We liberated that country. We freed a country from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. And thanks to the United States and our friends and allies—and thanks to the United States and friends and allies, many young girls now go to school for the first time.

I remind you of that because our country never has the intention of conquering anybody. We believe in freedom for all people. We believe in freeing people, if possible. So we're liberators in this case, and we'll always be liberators. Because our coalition is strong, I would say we've hauled in—arrested or however you want to put it—a couple of thousand of Al Qaida. Some of them are former leaders. Abu Zubaydah was one of the top three leaders in the organization. Like number weren't as lucky; they met a different kind of fate. But they're no longer a problem.

We're slowly but surely rounding them up. The other day we got this guy, bin al-Shibh. He popped his head up. [*Laughter*] He's not a problem. Slowly but surely—and I'm not giving up. There's not a calendar on my desk that says, okay, on this day, you quit. That's just not the way I think. I understand the task. I know the threats. The threats should be vivid in everybody's mind when you see the pictures of the devastation, the size of the bomb crater, the absolute needless murder that took place in Indonesia.

I asked Congress for a significant increase in defense spending. I appreciate that. I appreciate the fact that the House voted on it. The Senate voted on it. They need to get that to my desk. The House voted on the conference. The Senate needs to get it to my desk before they go home.

And the reason I did is because I feel strongly about this. Any time we put our kids into harm's way, they've got to have the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. I also wanted to send a message to friend and foe that we're in this deal for

the long pull, that when it comes to defending our freedom, it doesn't matter how long it takes. When it comes to protecting America and innocent life, there is no timeline, friends, that there's just not a quitting date until I'm absolutely certain that America is secure.

I believe the enemy, they just didn't know what they were up to when they hit us. They probably—guys sitting there, saying, "They're so materialistic, so self-absorbed, so selfish that they might file a lawsuit or two." [Laughter] They didn't understand America. They just don't understand what we're made out of. They don't understand our fiber. They don't understand our courage. They don't understand what we love.

My job is not only to protect America today but to anticipate problems as well. And obviously I started a significant and important debate about Iraq. I did because I—because I understand the threat of Iraq. This is a country that said he would have no weapons of mass destruction, and he does. This is a country that has defied the United Nations 11 straight years, 16 different resolutions. He's completely ignored the international body. This is a country who has made it clear, he'd like to have a nuclear weapon. And when our inspectors—or the inspectors went into the country right after the Gulf war, it was estimated that they were months away from having a nuclear weapon. This is a country that hates America, hates the people in the neighborhood. This is a country which has invaded two countries, unprovoked. This is a country, the leadership of which has actually used weapons of mass destruction on its own people, on citizens who disagreed with him. This is a country who gassed its neighbors. This is a dangerous man.

Prior to September the 11th, 2001, we thought two oceans would protect us. We thought we could kind of step back, and say, "This may be somebody else's problem, in another part of the world, and we may or may not deal with it." After September the 11th, we've entered into a new era and a new war. This is a man that we know has had connections with Al Qaida. This is a man who, in my judgment, would like to use Al Qaida as a forward army. And this is a man

that we must deal with for the sake of peace, for the sake of our children's peace.

Military option is my last choice. It's not my—it's the last thing I want to do, is commit our military. My first choice is for Saddam Hussein to do what he said he would do, and after 11 years, disarm. I doubt he's going to do that, but it's his choice to make. See, he gets to make the choice. The United Nations needs to make a choice, whether it will be the League of Nations or the United Nations, whether it will be an empty debating society or a group of countries who have got the capacity and the will and the backbone to help keep the peace. Their choice to make. I hope this happens peacefully. I hope he disarms. But for the sake of our future, for the sake of peace itself, if need be, the United States will lead a strong coalition of freedom-loving nations and disarm Saddam Hussein.

At the same time that we work to make America stronger and safer, we've got to make sure we work to make America better. We have an opportunity to challenge some of the problems that we face in our society. First, it starts with making sure every child gets educated. I appreciate Thaddeus' and your next Governor's focus on education. I mean every child, not just a few, not just a handful, not just those in nice districts—every single child.

I believe every child can learn. I hope you believe every child can learn. And then together we can challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. See, when you lower the bar, when you think certain kids can't learn, you're going to get lousy results. I also strongly believe that in return for Federal money, you need to show us whether or not the children are learning. You need to show us whether a child can read and write and add and subtract. And if so, we'll praise the teachers and thank them. We need to thank our teachers. But when we find children trapped in schools which will not teach and schools which will not change, you better have you a President and a Governor who's willing to challenge the status quo. No child should be left behind in America.

I want to work with Thaddeus to make sure that some of our promises are kept, particularly those to our seniors. Medicine is

modern. Medicare is not modern. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't changed. And for the sake of our seniors, we need to change Medicare so it's modern and includes prescription drugs. And I look forward to working with the members of the Congress.

Oh, there's some things Congress can do to make America a better place, but the most powerful instrument for change, the best way to make America a better place is to unleash the great strength of our country. And the great strength of America is the hearts and souls of the American people. If you want to fight evil in America, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to help change the country, if you want to be a part of eliminating the pockets of despair and loneliness, put your arm around somebody who hurts, and say, "I love you."

Today we welcomed a young kid, a 22-year-old boy there at the rally, who was a mentor. He is a part of the army of compassion in America. He is doing his part to change America one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time.

You see, one of the things I appreciate about our political party is, we understand the limitations of Government. Government can hand out money, but Government cannot put hope in people's hearts. Government cannot put a sense of purpose in people's lives. That happens when loving soul interfaces with loving soul.

The enemy hit us, but out of the evil done to America is coming a—is coming the revival of an American spirit, which understands—where we all understand serving something greater than ourself in life is a part of being an American, that being a patriot is more than just putting your hand over your heart, being a patriot is helping somebody in need. We can change America one soul at a time, we can, as our fellow Americans do their duty, to find the new patriotism.

Perhaps the greatest example of what I'm talking about and the most vivid example and an example which I think will last through the ages, is what happened on Flight 93. The guy was on a plane ride, flying across the country. Their loved ones tell them the plane is being used as a weapon. They recognize what must happen. They told their loved

ones goodbye. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll," and they drove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves.

No, the American spirit is alive, and it's strong. And as a result, we will overcome the evil done to America. No, the enemy hit us, but they didn't know who they were hitting. They hit a nation which is more committed to peace than ever before and a nation which is committed to making sure this country is hopeful and optimistic and bright for every citizen who is fortunate enough to live in this great land.

I want to thank you all for coming. You just need to know this about me: I believe there's any—we can accomplish anything set before us, because I know this is the finest country, full of the greatest people on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:01 p.m. in the Presidential Ballroom at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Rita McCotter, wife of candidate Thaddeus McCotter, and their children, George, Timothy, and Emilia; dinner chairs Betsy DeVos and Michael Kojaian; Jane Abraham, wife of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and volunteer Lenwood "Lenny" Compton, Jr. Candidate Thaddeus McCotter introduced the President.

Remarks at the White House Conference on Minority Homeownership

October 15, 2002

Well, thanks for the warm welcome. Thank you for being here today. I appreciate your attendance to this very important conference. You see, we want everybody in America to own their own home. That's what we want. This is—an ownership society is a compassionate society.

More and more people own their homes in America today. Two-thirds of all Americans own their homes. Yet, we have a problem here in America because fewer than half

of the Hispanics and half the African Americans own the home. That's a homeownership gap. It's a gap that we've got to work together to close for the good of our country, for the sake of a more hopeful future. We've got to work to knock down the barriers that have created a homeownership gap.

I set an ambitious goal. It's one that I believe we can achieve. It's a clear goal, that by the end of this decade we'll increase the number of minority homeowners by at least 5½ million families. Some may think that's a stretch. I don't think it is. I think it is realistic. I know we're going to have to work together to achieve it. But when we do, our communities will be stronger and so will our economy.

Achieving the goal is going to require some good policies out of Washington. And it's going to require a strong commitment from those of you involved in the housing industry. Just by showing up at the conference, you show your commitment. And together—together we will work over the next decade to enable millions of our fellow Americans to own a piece of their own property, and that's their home.

I appreciate so very much the homeowners who are with us today. The Arias family, newly arrived from Peru, they live in Baltimore. Thanks to the Association of Real Estate Brokers, the help of some good folks in Baltimore, they figured out how to purchase their own home. Imagine to be coming to our country without a home, with a simple dream. And now they're on stage here at this conference, being one of the new homeowners in the greatest land on the face of the Earth. I appreciate the Arias family coming.

We've got the Horton family from Little Rock, Arkansas, here today. Actually, it's not Little Rock; it's North Little Rock, Arkansas. I was corrected. [Laughter] I appreciate so very much these good folks coming all the way up from the South. They were helped by HUD. They were helped by Freddie Mac. Obviously, they've got a young family. And when we start talking about owning a home, a smile spread right across the face of the dad that could have lit up the entire town of Washington, DC. I appreciate you all coming. Thanks for coming. He had to make sure

I knew that he was educated in Texas. [Laughter]

Finally, Kim Berry from New York is here. She's a single mom. You're not going to believe this, but her son is 18 years old. [Laughter] She barely looked like she was 18 to me. Being a single mom is the hardest job in America. And the idea of this fine American working hard to provide for her child, at the same time working hard to realize her dream, which is owning a home on Long Island, is really a special tribute to the character of this particular person and to the character of a lot of Americans. And so we're honored to have you here, Kim, and thanks for being such a good mom and a fine American.

I told Mel Martinez I was serious about this initiative. We started talking about it, and I said, "Well, you know, I'm the kind of fellow, I don't like to lay out a goal and don't mean it." I think it's not—I don't think it's fair for the American people to be—to have a President or anybody else, for that matter, lay out a goal and just kind of say it but don't mean it. I mean it. And the good news is, Mel Martinez believes it and means it as well. He's doing a fine job of running HUD, and I'm glad he has joined my Cabinet. And I picked a pretty spunky Deputy as well, Alphonso Jackson, my fellow Texan. I call him A.J.

I appreciate the Secretary of Agriculture being here. She's got a lot of money having to do with rural housing. I appreciate Ann's commitment to rural America. And I'm really proud of the job she's doing as well for the American people, serving in my Cabinet. Thanks for coming, Ann.

I've got some others in my administration, as I look around. I see Rosario Marin, who's the Treasurer of the United States. Rosario used to be a mayor. Thank you for coming, Madam Mayor. She understands how important housing is. I see other mayors around here, and I want to thank the mayors for coming. After all, it's in your interest that this project succeed.

I know we've got some folks from the faith-based community here. Luis Cortes from Philadelphia is here and my friend Kirbyjon Caldwell from Houston, Texas. Kirbyjon, I had breakfast with him this morning. He told me he was going to have to leave before my

speech. He's a wise man, that Kirbyjon Caldwell. [*Laughter*] But he has gone back home to Texas.

I appreciate Margaret Spellings and her staff. Margaret is the Domestic Policy Adviser to the President, and I want to thank you for putting on this conference, Margaret.

All of us here in America should believe, and I think we do, that we should be, as I mentioned, a nation of owners. Owning something is freedom, as far as I'm concerned. It's part of a free society, and ownership of a home helps bring stability to neighborhoods. You own your home in a neighborhood, you have more interest in how your neighborhood feels, looks, whether it's safe or not. It brings pride to people. It's a part of an asset-based society. It helps people build up their own individual portfolio, provides an opportunity, if need be, for a mom or a dad to leave something to their child. It's a part of—it's a part of being a—it's a part of—an important part of America.

Homeownership is also an important part of our economic vitality. If—when we meet this project, this goal, according to our Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, we will have added an additional \$256 billion to the economy by encouraging 5.5 million new homeowners in America. The activity—the economic activity stimulated with the additional purchasers, the additional buyers, the additional demand will be upwards of \$256 billion. And that's important because it will help people find work.

Low interest rates, low inflation are very important foundations for economic growth. The idea of encouraging new homeownership and the money that will be circulated as a result of people purchasing homes will mean people are more likely to find a job in America. This project not only is good for the soul of the country; it's good for the pocketbook of the country as well.

To open up the doors of homeownership there are some barriers, and I want to talk about four that need to be overcome.

First, downpayments—a lot of folks can't make a downpayment. They may be qualified. They may desire to buy a home, but they don't have the money to make a downpayment. I think if you were to talk to a lot of families that are—desire to have a home,

they would tell you that the downpayment is the hurdle that they can't cross. And one way to address that is to have the Federal Government participate.

And so we've called upon Congress to set up what's called the American Dream Down Payment Fund, which will provide financial grants to local governments to help first-time homebuyers who qualify to make the downpayment on their home. If a downpayment is a problem, there's a way we can address that. And when Congress funds the program, this should help 200,000 new families over the next 5 years become first-time homebuyers.

Secondly, affordable housing is a problem in many neighborhoods, particularly inner-city neighborhoods. You may—we may have qualified homebuyers, but if there's no home to buy, this initiative isn't going anywhere. And so one of the things that we're going to—that I'm doing is proposing a single-family affordable housing credit to encourage the construction of single-family homes in neighborhoods where affordable housing is scarce.

Over the next 5 years the initiative will provide homebuilders and therefore homebuyers with—homebuilders with \$2 billion in tax credits to bring affordable homes and therefore provide an additional supply for homebuyers. It's really important for us to understand that we can provide incentive for people to build homes where there's a lack of affordable housing. And we've got to set priorities, and one of the key priorities is going to be inner-city America. Good schools and affordable housing will help revitalize our inner cities.

Another obstacle to minority homeownership is the lack of information. You know, getting into your own home can be complicated. It can be a difficult process. I had that very same problem. [*Laughter*]

Every homebuyer has responsibilities and rights that need to be understood clearly. And yet when you look at some of the contracts, there's a lot of small print. And you can imagine somebody newly arrived from Peru looking at all that print and saying, "I'm not sure I can possibly understand that. Why do I want to buy a home?" There's an educational process that needs to go on, not only to explain the contract, explain obligation,

but also to explain financing options, to help people understand the complexities of a homeownership market, and also at the same time to protect people from unscrupulous lenders, people who would take advantage of a good-hearted soul who is trying to realize their dream.

Homeownership education is critical. And so today I'm pleased to announce that through Mel's office, we're going to distribute \$35 million in 2003 to more than 100 national, State, and local organizations that promote homeownership through buyer education.

And of course, one of the larger obstacles to minority homeownership is financing, is the ability to have their dream financed. Right now we have a program that all of you all are familiar with—maybe our fellow Americans aren't—and that's what they call a Section 8 housing program, that provides billions of dollars in vouchers to help low-income Americans with their rent. It encourages leasing. We think it's important that we use those vouchers, that Federal money, to help low-income Americans go from being somebody who leases to somebody who owns; that we use the Section 8 program to not only help with downpayment but to help with continuing monthly mortgage payments after they're into their new home. It is a way to help us meet this dream of 5½ million additional families owning their home.

I'm also going to encourage the lending industry to develop a mortgage market so that this script, these vouchers, can regularly be used as a source of payment to provide more capital to lenders, who can then help more families move from rental housing into houses of their own.

These are some of the barriers that homeowners face—potential homeowners face, and this is what we intend to do about it. But like in a lot of our life, Government can't do everything. It's impossible to provide every aspect of a national strategy, particularly in this case. And that's why we need the help of private and nonprofit sectors in our country to help play a vital role in helping to meet the goal. Many of you here represent the nonprofit as well as the private sectors of our economy and our country, and I want to thank you for your commitment.

Last June, I issued a challenge to everyone involved in the housing industry to help increase the number of minority families to be homeowners. And what I'm talking about, I'm talking about your bankers and your brokers and developers as well as members of faith-based community and community programs. And the response to the homeowners challenge has been very strong and very gratifying.

Twenty-two public and private partners have signed up to help meet our national goal. Partners in the mortgage finance industry are encouraging homeownership by purchasing more loans made by banks to African Americans, Hispanics, and other minorities. Representatives of the real estate and homebuilding industries, through their nationwide networks or affiliates, are committed to broadening homeownership. They made the commitment to help meet the national goal we set.

Freddie Mae—Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—I see the heads who are here; I want to thank you all for coming—[laughter]—have committed to provide more money for lenders. They've committed to help meet the shortage of capital available for minority homebuyers.

Fannie Mae recently announced a \$50 million program to develop 600 homes for the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma. Franklin, I appreciate that commitment. They also announced \$12.7 million investment in the condominium project in Harlem. It's the beginnings of a series of initiatives to help meet the goal of 5½ million families. Franklin told me at the meeting where we kicked this off, he said, "I promise you, we will help," and he has, like many others in this room have done.

Freddie Mac recently began 25 initiatives around the country to dismantle barriers and create greater opportunities for homeownership. One of the programs is designed to help deserving families who have bad credit histories to qualify for homeownership loans. Freddie Mac is also working with the Department of Defense to promote construction and financing for housing for men and women in the military.

There's all kinds of ways that we can work together to meet the goal. Corporate America has a responsibility to work to make America a compassionate place. Corporate America has responded. As an example—only one of many examples—the good folks at Sears and Roebuck have responded by making a 5-year, \$100 million commitment to making homeownership and home maintenance possible for millions of Americans.

There have been other steps that are being taken to close the homeownership gap. And you've heard some of the stories here today, people much more eloquent than me to talk about what's taking place on the frontline of meeting this national goal.

The nonprofit groups are bringing homeownership to some of our most troubled communities. And as you know, I'm a strong advocate of what I call the Faith-Based Initiative. And the reason I am is because I understand the universal call to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, and that includes helping somebody find a home.

One such example is the Enterprise Foundation, a national nonprofit organization that provides assistance to grassroots homeownership organizations. Because of their work, as one example, 185 affordable homes will be available in a Baltimore neighborhood that was once so crime-ridden that people had written it off. Revitalizing neighborhoods is a real possibility if people put their mind to it. And at the same time, you're helping people own a home in America.

And the faith-based community is doing some fantastic work when it comes to encouraging homeownership, whether it be financial counseling or job training or other outreach services to help people understand what it takes to buy a home.

And then there's my friend Kirbyjon Caldwell. He not only provides counseling and job training; he actually decided to encourage a development of homes in the Houston area. People—low-income people are going to be able to more afford a home in Texas because of Kirbyjon's vision and work. He's answered the call of faith to help people help themselves and to help them realize dreams.

The other thing Kirbyjon told me, which I really appreciate, is you don't have to have

a lousy home for first-time homebuyers. If you put your mind to it, the first-time homebuyer, the low-income homebuyer can have just as nice a house as anybody else. And I know Kirbyjon. He is what I call a social entrepreneur who is using his platform as a Methodist preacher to improve the neighborhood and the community in which he lives.

And so is Luis Cortes, who represents Nueva Esperanza in Philadelphia. I went to see Luis one time in the inner-city Philadelphia. Luis is—at least he was; he's probably still there—in what one would call a tough neighborhood. There's a lot of abandoned buildings, and I mean, beautiful old structures just empty. Luis had a dream to revitalize his neighborhood, starting with a good charter school, one that would work, one that would teach kids how to read and write and add and subtract. But he also understood that a homeownership program is incredibly important to revitalize this neighborhood that a lot of folks had already quit on. I suspect one day we'll all go back to Luis' neighborhood, and we'll find first-time homeowners there and a good education system. And this will be the beginning of a neighborhood revitalization in that part of Philadelphia, because there was vision and drive and hope for our fellow citizens.

So I want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank you for your determination to help close the minority homeownership gap. It's an incredibly important initiative for this country. See, America is a good and generous country. It's a great place. Part of it is to make sure that the dream, the American Dream, the ability to come from anywhere in our society and say, "I own this home," is a reality—can be achievable for anybody, regardless of their status, regardless of their—of whether or not they think the dream is meant for them. I mean, we can put light where there's darkness and hope where there's despondency in this country, and part of it is working together as a nation to encourage folks to own their own home.

Again, I want to tell you, this is an initiative—as Mel will tell you—it's an initiative that we take very seriously. We're going to stay on it until we're—until we achieve the goal. And as we all achieve the goal, we can look back and say, "America is a better place

for our hard work, our efforts, and our desires for our fellow Americans to realize the greatness of our country.”

Thank you for coming. May God bless your vision. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:55 p.m. in the Jack Morton Auditorium in the Media and Public Affairs Building at George Washington University. In his remarks, he referred to Franklin D. Raines, chairman and chief executive officer, Fannie Mae. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on Signing the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002

October 16, 2002

Thank you all. Please be seated. Good morning. Welcome to the White House. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who have joined us. I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here on the stage. I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here in the audience. I'm honored to have you here.

The resolution I'm about to sign symbolizes the united purpose of our Nation, expresses the considered judgment of the Congress, and marks an important event in the life of America. The 107th Congress is one of the few called by history to authorize military action to defend our country and the cause of peace.

This is among the most serious and difficult decisions a legislator can face. Members of both Houses, both political parties, have deliberated with care, and they have spoken with clarity on behalf of the American people. We will face our dangers squarely, and we will face them unafraid.

With this resolution, Congress has now authorized the use of force. I have not ordered the use of force. I hope the use of force will not become necessary. Yet, confronting the threat posed by Iraq is necessary, by whatever means that requires. Either the Iraqi regime will give up its weapons of mass destruction, or for the sake of peace, the United States will lead a global coalition to disarm that regime. If any doubt our Nation's re-

solve, our determination, they would be unwise to test it.

The Iraqi regime is a serious and growing threat to peace. On the commands of a dictator, the regime is armed with biological and chemical weapons, possesses ballistic missiles, promotes international terror, and seeks nuclear weapons. The same dictator has a history of mass murder, of striking other nations without warning, of intense hatred for America, and of contempt for the demands of the civilized world.

If Iraq gains even greater destructive power, nations in the Middle East would face blackmail, intimidation, or attack. Chaos in that region would be felt in Europe and beyond. And Iraq's combination of weapons of mass destruction and ties to terrorist groups and ballistic missiles would threaten the peace and security of many nations. Those who choose to live in denial may eventually be forced to live in fear.

Every nation that shares in the benefits of peace also shares in the duty of defending the peace. The time has arrived once again for the United Nations to live up to the purposes of its founding to protect our common security. The time has arrived once again for free nations to face up to our global responsibilities and confront a gathering danger.

In 1991, Iraq was given 15 days to fully disclose all weapons of mass destruction. The dictator has successfully defied that obligation for 4,199 days. The dictator has—and during this 11-year period of his dictatorship, the regime has become highly skilled in the techniques of deception. It has blocked effective inspections of so-called Presidential sites—actually 12 square miles with hundreds of structures where sensitive materials could be hidden. The regime has forged documents, disabled surveillance cameras, and developed mobile weapons facilities to keep ahead of any inspector.

The Iraqi regime has frustrated the work of international inspectors by firing warning shots, by tapping their telephones, confiscating their documents, blocking aerial inspection flights, and barring access to sites for hours while evidence is carried away. At one location, inspectors actually witnessed Iraqi guards moving files, burning documents, and then dumping the ashes in a river.

Aboard U.N. helicopters, Iraqi escorts have physically struggled with inspectors to keep them from approaching certain areas.

For Iraq, the old weapons inspection process was little more than a game in which cheating was never punished. And that game is over. The ploys and promises of the Iraqi regime no longer matter. The regime is free to continue saying whatever it chooses. Its fate depends entirely on what it actually does.

Our goal is not merely to limit Iraq's violations of Security Council resolutions or to slow down its weapons program. Our goal is to fully and finally remove a real threat to world peace and to America. Hopefully, this can be done peacefully. Hopefully, we can do this without any military action. Yet, if Iraq is to avoid military action by the international community, it has the obligation to prove compliance with all the world's demands. It's the obligation of Iraq.

Compliance will begin with a accurate and full and complete accounting for all chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons materials, as well as missiles and other means of delivery anywhere in Iraq. Failure to make such an accounting would be a further indication of the regime's bad faith and aggressive intent. Inspectors must have access to any site in Iraq at any time, without preclearance, without delay, without exceptions. Inspectors must be permitted to operate under new, effective rules. And the Iraqi regime must accept those rules without qualification or negotiation.

To ensure that we learn the truth, the regime must allow witnesses to its illegal activities to be interviewed outside of the country. These witnesses must be free to bring their entire families with them, so they're beyond the reach of Saddam Hussein's terror, Saddam Hussein's torture, Saddam Hussein's murder.

In addition to declaring and destroying all of its weapons of mass destruction, Iraq, in accordance with U.N. Security Council demands, must end its support for terrorism. As the U.N. demands, Iraq must cease the persecution of its civilian population. As the U.N. demands, Iraq must stop all illicit trade outside the oil-for-food program. Iraq must also release or account for all Gulf war per-

sonnel, including an American pilot whose fate is still unknown.

The United States takes the resolutions of the Security Council seriously. We urge other nations to do the same. We're working to build the broadest possible coalition to enforce the demands of the world on the Iraqi regime. I've told all the members of the United Nations, America will play its historic role in defeating aggressive tyranny.

I hope the good people of Iraq will remember our history and not pay attention to the hateful propaganda of their Government. America has never sought to dominate, has never sought to conquer. We've always sought to liberate and to free. Our desire is to help Iraqi citizens find the blessings of liberty within their own culture and their own traditions. The Iraqi people cannot flourish under a dictator that oppresses them and threatens them. Gifted people of Iraq will flourish if and when oppression is lifted.

When Iraq has a government committed to the freedom and well-being of its people, America, along with many other nations, will share a responsibility to help Iraq reform and prosper. And we will meet our responsibilities. That's our pledge to the Iraqi people.

Like the Members of Congress here today, I've carefully weighed the human cost of every option before us. If we go into battle, as a last resort, we will confront an enemy capable of irrational miscalculations, capable of terrible deeds. As the Commander in Chief, I know the risks to our country. I'm fully responsible to the young men and women in uniform who may face these risks. Yet those risks only increase with time, and the costs could be immeasurably higher in years to come. To shrink from this threat would bring a false sense of temporary peace, leading to a future in which millions live or die at the discretion of a brutal dictator. That's not true peace, and we won't accept it.

The terrorist attacks of last year put our country on notice. We're not immune from the dangers and hatreds of the world. In the events of September the 11th, we resolved as a nation to oppose every threat from any source that could bring sudden tragedy to the American people. This Nation will not live at the mercy of any foreign power or

plot. Confronting grave dangers is the surest path to peace and security. This is the expectation of the American people and the decision of their elected representatives.

I thank the Congress for a thorough debate and an overwhelming statement of support. The broad resolve of our Government is now clear to all, clear to everyone to see: We will defend our Nation and lead others in defending the peace.

May God bless your work.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:17 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and missing American pilot Lt. Comdr. Michael S. Speicher, USN. H.J. Res. 114, approved October 16, was assigned Public Law No. 107-243.

Statement on Signing the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002

October 16, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.J. Res. 114, a resolution "To authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq." By passing H.J. Res. 114, the Congress has demonstrated that the United States speaks with one voice on the threat to international peace and security posed by Iraq. It has also clearly communicated to the international community, to the United Nations Security Council, and, above all, to Iraq's tyrannical regime a powerful and important message: the days of Iraq flouting the will of the world, brutalizing its own people, and terrorizing its neighbors must—and will—end. Iraq will either comply with all U.N. resolutions, rid itself of weapons of mass destruction, and in its support for terrorists, or it will be compelled to do so. I hope that Iraq will choose compliance and peace, and I believe passage of this resolution makes that choice more likely.

The debate over this resolution in the Congress was in the finest traditions of American democracy. There is no social or political force greater than a free people united in a common and compelling objective. It is for that reason that I sought an additional resolution of support from the Congress to use force against Iraq, should force become nec-

essary. While I appreciate receiving that support, my request for it did not, and my signing this resolution does not, constitute any change in the long-standing positions of the executive branch on either the President's constitutional authority to use force to deter, prevent, or respond to aggression or other threats to U.S. interests or on the constitutionality of the War Powers Resolution. On the important question of the threat posed by Iraq, however, the views and goals of the Congress, as expressed in H.J. Res. 114 and previous congressional resolutions and enactments, and those of the President are the same.

Throughout the past months, I have had extensive consultations with the Congress, and I look forward to continuing close consultation in the months ahead. In addition, in accordance with section 4 of H.J. Res. 114, I intend to submit written reports to the Congress on matters relevant to this resolution every 60 days. To the extent possible, I intend to consolidate information in these reports with the information concerning Iraq submitted to the Congress pursuant to previous, related resolutions.

The United States is committed to a world in which the people of all nations can live in freedom, peace, and security. Enactment of H.J. Res. 114 is an important step on the road toward such a world.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 16, 2002.

NOTE: H.J. Res. 114, approved October 16, was assigned Public Law No. 107-243.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and an Exchange With Reporters

October 16, 2002

The President. So here's what's going to happen. I'm going to have an opening statement; the Prime Minister will make an opening statement. I will call on a person; he will call—the Press Secretary will call on a person. I will call another; he will. And that's it—two questions a side.

It's my honor to welcome the Prime Minister of our close friend to—back to the White House. We've just had a good discussion about peace and security, about prosperity. I first want to say that I understand that—what terror has done to economy. Terror has affected our economy. Terror has affected the Israeli economy, but we've got great confidence in the Israeli economy. We've got great confidence in the Israeli people. The greatest asset Israel has is the brainpower and ingenuity of her people. And I'm convinced that the economy will be strong.

I appreciate so very much the fact that the Prime Minister is committed to working with his Cabinet to move some of the Palestinian money to the Palestinian people, that he cares about the human condition of the Palestinians, and that under a monitoring system to make sure that the money being sent back to the Palestinian people will not be used for terrorist activities, that he is willing to work with his Cabinet to do just that. I believe that's important.

We talked about the framework for peace, the idea of working toward peace, the idea of two states living side by side in peace as a part of our vision. And to this end, Bill Burns, Ambassador from the State Department, is going back to the Middle East to continue to work on the process, continue to work toward achieving concrete, real, objective, and measurable reforms, so that there's a peaceful future for the region.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, thanks for coming. It's good to welcome you. I appreciate you being here.

Prime Minister Sharon. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having us again here. I would like to express our deep appreciation to your leadership facing the world terror. We regard terror as the most dangerous thing, and seeing the terror spread now, seeing that your leadership—under your leadership the world will be able to face the terror and contain terror and stop terror.

We have been facing terror for over 120 years, and we still face terror. But we believe the day will come, and I hope it will be soon, that we'll be able to start peace negotiations. I believe that Jews and Arabs will be able to live together. And we, on one hand, are taking all the necessary steps against terror.

And we will continue to defend our citizens. In the same time, we'll take all the necessary steps to move forward the political process. And I believe the day will come, and we'll have peace.

We discussed—we had interesting discussions here, very important. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for the friendship and cooperation. And as far as I remember, as we look back towards many years now, I think that we never had such relations with any President of the United States as we have with you, and we never had such cooperation in everything as we have with the current administration. I would like to thank you for that, and we are looking forward for better future for all of us.

The President. Thank you, sir.

Barry [Barry Schweid] of AP.

Situation in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, are you asking the Prime Minister, have you asked the Prime Minister not to respond if Iraq attacks? And Mr. Prime Minister, have you any concrete offers of help from the administration to reduce the risk of an Iraqi attack?

The President. Well, first of all, I have told the Prime Minister that my hope is, is that we could achieve a disarmament of the Iraqi regime peacefully. I haven't given up on the fact that we can achieve it peacefully. We have no plans to use our military until—unless we need to. I explained to the Prime Minister, just like I explain to every citizen who is interested in this, the military is my last choice, not my first choice.

So we talked about the desire to—for the U.N. Security Council to be strong and for the nations that care about peace to see that Saddam is disarmed. And he's got to disarm himself. That's what we talked about.

Q. If I could ask for the Prime Minister's response, please.

The President. He's trying to do the two question thing. [Laughter]

Q. Two leaders, two questions.

The President. Wait a minute, Barry. He's an old pro.

Possible Iraqi Attack on Israel

Q. Mr. President, I would like to complete my colleague's question. If an Iraqi missile lands in Tel Aviv, killing tens of people—

The President. You mean an unprovoked attack—if tomorrow an Iraqi missile lands?

Q. Theoretically, and it can be practically.

The President. If Iraq were to attack Israel tomorrow, I'm sure there would be an appropriate response.

Q. How should Israel respond? How should you respond—

The President. If Iraq attacks Israel tomorrow, I would assume the Prime Minister would respond. He's got—he's got a desire to defend himself.

Our hope is that the Iraqi regime will disarm peacefully. But I can't—maybe—maybe Saddam will attack tomorrow. He's certainly a dangerous man. And he's got to understand that the international community won't tolerate an unprovoked attack on Israel or anybody else, for that matter. Of course, he's done it in the past. That's what I've explained to the American people. He's attacked two nations. He's gassed his own people. He's a dangerous man. That's why he must be disarmed, and that's why the international community must work to disarm him.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

U.N. Resolution on Iraq

Q. Thank you, sir. It's been more than a month since you said you expected the United Nations to act in days or weeks on a new Iraq resolution. How much longer are you prepared to wait, and why aren't you losing patience?

The President. Because I'm a patient man. [Laughter] My mother and wife think that's hysterical when I say that, of course. [Laughter]

Let's see, because it takes a while to get things done in the U.N., I guess is the answer. I mean, we will—I've made the commitment to go to the U.N.; I've asked the U.N. to act. We have got to deal with members of the Security Council. There are differing opinions on members of the Security Council. And we've got to work hard to reach a consensus, a resolution that will, on the one hand, do everything it can to disarm Saddam Hussein and also has got the capacity for

there to be consequences should he not disarm. And therefore, we're working closely with the Perm Five as well as others on the Security Council to reach this resolution.

I am a patient man. I think it's important. I made the decision to go to the U.N., and therefore, we're willing to work with the U.N. If the U.N. can't act, however, if they're unable to act, if once again after 11 years and 16 resolutions they cannot bring themselves together to disarm Saddam Hussein, then we will lead a coalition to do just that. But in the meantime, we're giving the U.N. time to listen to the arguments and to, hopefully, come together soon to get a resolution which will achieve the objectives.

Q. Mr. President—

The President. Yes. The Prime Minister is looking for a question or two. [Laughter]

Q. If you will allow me, I will ask him about—

The President. No, I'm sorry, strict guidelines. We must be disciplined.

Possible Terrorist Attacks on Israel

Q. Mr. President, the Hezbollah is threatening to escalate the situation in the Israeli northern border, and Israel has intelligence information that Palestinian terror organizations are also planning to escalate and have more terror attacks because the United States might attack Iraq to disarm Saddam Hussein. Is there any limitations on Israel to defend itself? Did you ask the Prime Minister not to do certain—not to take certain measures if he's attacked by Hezbollah or by the terror organizations, the Palestinian terror organizations?

The President. We certainly want to work with Israel, and we'll make it clear to Hezbollah, nations housing Hezbollah, whether in the context of Iraq or not, we expect there to be no attacks. This is terrorist activity, and we will fight terror wherever terror exists.

I find it—the doctrine that says “if you harbor a terrorist” still exists. And we expect—again, apart from Iraq, we expect Hezbollah not to attack our friend. And so we will work with Israel and work with other nations, making it clear to them our position on harboring terrorist activities.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:24 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs William J. Burns; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and Israel

October 16, 2002

As part of the effort to further Palestinian reform, the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Israel agreed that the Government of Israel would consider favorably the gradual return and scheduled transfer of all PA tax funds collected by Israel on the unequivocal condition that there would be full U.S.-led monitoring to ensure that these funds will only be used for the economic and civil activities of the Palestinian community and to prevent the use of these funds for terrorist activity of any kind.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on Congressional Action on Election Reform Legislation

October 16, 2002

The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy. I commend the House and Senate for passing legislation to improve our election process. The legislation is consistent with the principles outlined by the bipartisan Ford-Carter Commission that respect the primacy of State and local governments and envision a limited but responsible role for the Federal Government. I look forward to signing these important election reforms into law.

Statement on Congressional Action on Defense Appropriations Legislation

October 16, 2002

I commend the House and Senate for responding to my call to pass the defense appropriations bill. This defense budget will provide our troops with the best pay, the best

equipment, and the best possible training. It also sends an important signal that we are committed to defending freedom and defeating terror. The Congress acted responsibly in passing the defense appropriations bill first, and I look forward to signing it.

Memorandum on FY 2003 Refugee Admissions Numbers and Authorizations of In-Country Refugee Status

October 16, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2003–02

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on FY 2003 Refugee Admissions Numbers and Authorizations of In-Country Refugee Status

In accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the “Act”) (8 U.S.C. 1157), as amended, and after appropriate consultations with the Congress, I hereby make the following determinations and authorize the following actions:

The admission of up to 70,000 refugees to the United States during FY 2003 is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest; provided, however, that this number shall be understood as including persons admitted to the United States during FY 2003 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under the Amerasian immigrant admissions program, as provided below.

The 70,000 admissions numbers shall be allocated among refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States in accordance with the following regional allocations; provided, however, that the number allocated to the East Asia region shall include persons admitted to the United States during FY 2003 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1988, as contained in section 101(e) of Public Law 100–202 (Amerasian immigrants and their family members); provided further that the number allocated to the former Soviet Union shall include persons admitted who were nationals

of the former Soviet Union, or in the case of persons having no nationality, who were habitual residents of the former Soviet Union, prior to September 2, 1991:

Africa	20,000
East Asia	4,000
Eastern Europe	2,500
Former Soviet Union	14,000
Latin America/Caribbean	2,500
Near East/South Asia	7,000
Unallocated Reserve	20,000

The 20,000 unallocated numbers shall be allocated as needed to regional ceilings where shortfalls develop. Unused admissions numbers allocated to a particular region may be transferred to one or more other regions if there is an overriding need for greater numbers for the region or regions to which the numbers are being transferred. You are hereby authorized and directed to consult with the Judiciary Committees of the Congress prior to any such use of the unallocated numbers or reallocation of numbers from one region to another.

Pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, I hereby determine that assistance to or on behalf of persons applying for admission to the United States as part of the overseas refugee admissions program will contribute to the foreign policy interests of the United States and designate such persons for this purpose.

An additional 10,000 refugee admissions numbers shall be made available during FY 2003 for the adjustment to permanent resident status under section 209(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1159(b)) of aliens who have been granted asylum in the United States under section 208 of the Act (8 U.S.C. 1158), as this is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest.

In accordance with section 101(a)(42) of the Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)) and after appropriate consultation with the Congress, I also specify that, for FY 2003, the following persons may, if otherwise qualified, be considered refugees for the purpose of admission to the United States within their countries of nationality or habitual residence:

- a. Persons in Vietnam
- b. Persons in Cuba

c. Persons in the former Soviet Union

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress immediately and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Memorandum on Notification to the Congress of Trade Negotiation *October 16, 2002*

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Notification to the Congress of Trade Negotiation

You are authorized and directed to notify the Congress, pursuant to section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3804(a)(1)), of my intention to enter into negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement with the five member countries of the Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland).

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:01 a.m., October 17, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on October 18.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia *October 16, 2002*

On October 21, 1995, by Executive Order 12978, the President declared a national emergency pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia, and the unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm such actions cause in the United States and abroad.

The order blocks all property and interests in property that are in the United States or within the possession or control of United States persons or foreign persons listed in an annex to the order, as well as of foreign persons determined to play a significant role in international narcotics trafficking centered in Colombia. The order similarly blocks all property and interests in property of foreign persons determined to materially assist in, or provide financial or technological support for or goods or services in support of, the narcotics trafficking activities of persons designated in or pursuant to the order, or persons determined to be owned or controlled by, or to act for or on behalf of, persons designated in or pursuant to the order. The order also prohibits any transaction or dealing by United States persons or within the United States in such property or interests in property.

Because the actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad, the national emergency declared on October 21, 1995, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond October 21, 2002. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 16, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
8:45 a.m., October 17, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on October 18.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to
Significant Narcotics Traffickers
Centered in Colombia**

October 16, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on October 19, 2001 (66 *Fed. Reg.* 3073).

The circumstances that led to the declaration on October 21, 1995, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain economic pressure on significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia by blocking their property or interests in property that are in the United States or within the possession or control of United States persons and by depriving them of access to the United States market and financial system.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 16, 2002.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Significant Narcotics Traffickers
Centered in Colombia**

October 16, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report that my Administration has prepared on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 16, 2002.

**Remarks at a Luncheon for
Gubernatorial Candidate Sonny
Perdue and Senatorial Candidate
Saxby Chambliss in Atlanta, Georgia**
October 17, 2002

Thank you all for coming. I'm glad you all are here. Thanks for coming, and thanks for such a generous Georgia welcome.

You know, coming down on the airplane today, we were visiting about the politics here in Georgia, and a couple of the citizens from this great State told me my picture seems to be on the TV screen a lot—[laughter]—that a lot of people are using my image during the campaign. Well, I'm here to clarify a few things. The voters shouldn't be confused. For the sake of Georgia, for the sake of the United States, Saxby Chambliss needs to be the next United States Senator.

No, the voters shouldn't be confused. For the sake of Georgia and for the sake of a great public school system, Sonny Perdue needs to be the next Governor of Georgia.

I appreciate you all coming. I want to thank you for what you're going to do. First, I want to thank you for what you have done, which is come today. [Laughter] And what you need to do is go to your coffee shops,

your places of worship, the community centers, and let good people of Georgia understand that when you find two good ones, two good candidates like these two, they've got to work and vote on their behalf. Grassroots politics is going to win this election.

And there's another secret weapon in the case of these two men's campaign, that's their wives. They both married well. Like me, they married above themselves. [Laughter] I'm so proud that Julianne Chambliss is with—standing by Saxby's side. She's a great mom. She's going to be a fabulous Senate wife. And I've got to tell you, I'm real proud of Mary as well. Mom and grandmother—she's going to be a great first lady for Georgia.

You drew the short straw; Laura's in Mobile, Alabama. [Laughter] But she sends her very best. She's doing great, by the way. You know, I like to remind people that when I married her, she was a public school librarian in Texas. She didn't like politics. She didn't care for politicians. [Laughter] Now she's the First Lady of the United States and doing a magnificent job.

I appreciate members of the congressional delegation. All but one decided they wanted to fly on Air Force One, so I had coffee with them this morning. [Laughter] But it's a fine group of individuals representing Georgia in the United States Congress: Congressman Jack Kingston, Matt Collins, Johnny Isakson, Bob Barr, Nathan Deal, Charlie Norwood and John Linder.

I'm proud of that delegation, and I hope and I feel like the good folks around Georgia will be wise to add to the delegation, starting with Phil Gingrey from the 11th congressional district. Clay Cox is running for Congress. We need to get Clay in there. I'm real proud of the chairman of the Georgia Republican Party, my longtime friend Ralph Reed. I want to thank Ralph for his leadership. Alec Poitevint is the national committeeman. He also is a longtime friend. My friend Fred Cooper and Eric Tanenblatt all work hard to make sure our party is vibrant and alive and well, make sure our party not only is organized at the grassroots level but make sure our party sends out a message that all are welcomed, all who believe in the philosophy of personal responsibility, local control

of your schools, limited Government, compassionate Government are welcome into our party. All are welcome to vote for these good candidates who are running. We don't care what party you have. We don't care whether you're a Republican, Democrat, or independent. What we care is you support these good candidates because they're the right people at the right time for the State of Georgia.

Sonny knows what I'm talking about. Sonny knows what I'm talking about. After all, he used to call himself a Democrat. *[Laughter]* And that's okay. I'm used to Texas politics. We had a lot of folks who called themselves one party label, but they—we all felt the same about things. Sonny represents Georgian values. He is a down-to-earth fellow. He's a plain speaker. When he says something, he means it. He might not be the prettiest fellow to look at—*[laughter]*—but he can get the job done for all the people in Georgia.

And that means having a school system that leaves no children behind. Sonny's got a good education plan. It's one that makes sense. It's one that's going to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. It's going to set high standards. Sonny is going to support the teachers of Georgia. Sonny isn't going to try to micromanage the process from centralized government. He believes in local control of schools.

And Sonny is the kind of no-nonsense fellow who will hold people to account. You see, he'll be willing to measure to determine whether or not each child is learning in Georgia. And when he finds children trapped in schools which won't teach and won't change, he won't be bound by special interests. The only interest he cares about is the children of the State of Georgia.

He knows what I know; the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur or small-business owner can flourish. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by small businesses. And it seems like if you're worried about your job base, that you want to have somebody who's been a small-business person running your government, somebody who's actually done what a lot of others talk about. I think the fact that Sonny started his

own business in the field of agriculture is one of the strongest reasons why the folks of Georgia ought to send him up to the capital.

He also understands how important it is to have good roads and an efficient infrastructure. He's a practical man. He's a down-to-earth fellow who has asked the questions, how do you get the job done? He doesn't wait for a focus group. *[Laughter]* That's not his style. That's not how they raised them in south Georgia. If you're worried about your infrastructure, it seems like to me you want somebody who's licensed to fly a plane, who can drive a bus, or knows how to operate a truck. And that man is Sonny Perdue. And I'm proud to be here. I'm proud to say as loud and clear as I can, I'm for Sonny Perdue because he'll make a great Governor.

And there's no doubt in my mind you've got to make sure that Saxby Chambliss is your United States Senator. Saxby is a leader. He's a leader. He can make things happen. I've watched him—I've watched him closely. I worked with him on the education bill, a fine piece of education reform. He brings a deep compassion for education. He and I understand the role of the Federal Government is limited, but the role of the Federal Government must be active. It says this: When we spend Federal money, we expect there to be good results. If you believe every child can learn like we do, if you want to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations, that finally we've begun to ask the question, what's happening? With all that money we're spending, what's happening? Why don't you show us whether or not our children can read and write and add and subtract? Why don't you show us whether or not our children have got a bright future?" And if so, I promise you, we'll praise the teachers. But if not, we expect a return on behalf of the taxpayers' dollars. This piece of reform was substantial reform. And Saxby Chambliss was one of the leaders in the House of Representatives to make sure this bill got passed.

He understands what I know. Medicine has changed, but Medicare hadn't. Medicine is modern; Medicare is old and needs to be reformed. Saxby Chambliss is one of the leaders in the United States Congress to

make sure that Medicare changes with medicine and that seniors have got prescription drug benefits.

I'm for Saxby because he will help me make sure that the judges I nominate get a fair hearing and get confirmed. My job is to put good, honorable, hard-working, intelligent, capable people on the Federal bench, people who will not use the bench to serve as a legislator but people who will sit on the bench to strictly interpret the United States Constitution.

And the record of this Senate is a lousy record. If you look at the record, the percentage of my nominees who have been approved, and look at the reason why they haven't, you'll find that they're playing too much politics in Washington, DC. They're slow playing the process. And when some of my really good nominees got a hearing, they distorted their records. They listened to the small groups of special interests in Washington, DC. For the sake of a good, sound Federal judiciary, I need a United States Senator who will stand strong for my nominees, and that is Saxby Chambliss.

We've got some challenges ahead of us. No question one of the challenges is to make sure people can find work in America, that we can build on the foundation of economic growth. I'm optimistic about our economy's future because I know when interest rates are low and inflation is low and the productivity of our great workforce is high, we can grow our economy. I believe strongly that the future is a bright future. But we've got a lot of work to do. Together, we've got a lot of work to do.

And there are some clear-cut things that the Congress can do. And one of them is to understand the significance of tax relief when it comes to economic vitality. Saxby and I read the page out of this economic textbook, that says if you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when somebody demands a good or a service in the marketplace, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody is more likely to be able to find work.

And so we passed tax relief. Some people were enthusiastic about it. Some weren't

quite so sure. And we got it passed. But the reason the issue is still alive is because there's a quirk in the Senate rules. This is a tough one for me to explain to you. It's like the Senate giveth, and the Senate taketh away. *[Laughter]* You see, after 10 years, the tax relief plan reverts back to where it was when we started relieving the taxes. So that creates uncertainty. It's hard if you're a small business person to plan, with uncertainty. It's hard for an economy to be steady if there's an uncertain Tax Code.

One of the big issues in this campaign is who understands what I've just described and who's willing to join the President in making sure the tax relief plan is permanent. And that person is Saxby Chambliss.

No, I will continue to work on our economy, helping to make sure our workers can find work. There's a lot of things we can do. We need an energy bill. We need a terrorism insurance bill. We need to make sure Congress doesn't overspend. Listen, every idea sounds like a genius idea in Washington. *[Laughter]* The problem is they all cost billions. I've got to make sure I've got Members of the House and Members of the Senate who understand we need to set priorities and make sure we don't overspend. For the sake of economic vitality, there needs to be fiscal restraint and fiscal sanity, which means you better have a United States Senator who understands that when we're spending money in Washington, we're not spending the Government's money, we're spending the people's money.

Economic issue is a big issue. There's no bigger issue, however, than protecting the homeland. I say that because there's an enemy that still lurks out there, a enemy which hates America. And they hate us because of what we love. They hate us because we love freedom. They hate us because we hold dear and deeply love the idea that anybody can worship an almighty God any way he or she sees fit. They hate the idea of a free press, free political discourse. That's what they hate. And so long as we love our freedoms, they will try to harm our country.

We've got a new task ahead for America, and that is to do everything we can to protect the American people. It used to be that oceans could protect us. We used to be able

to sit back here in America and feel safe and confident, because there's two vast oceans to protect us from potential enemies. But that has changed after September the 11th, 2001. And that's why it's essential for our country not only to deal with the threats we see today but to deal with threats we may see in the immediate tomorrow. That's why I called upon the United Nations and our United States Congress to deal with Iraq before it becomes a—before we get hurt. Oceans no longer protect us. The threat is real. The threat's alive.

I want to thank Saxby and other Members of the United States Congress for joining me in passing a strong resolution so that the United States speaks with one voice. It's now up for Mr. Saddam Hussein to do what he said he would do, to disarm. It's now up for the free nations of the world to show some courage and backbone and disarm him.

There are real threats that we face, and therefore, our most important job is to do everything we can to protect the homeland. A lot of people are working hard to do just that; they really are. We've got a lot of good agents at the CIA and FBI, and State police and local police, first responders, all of them working hard to do everything we can to protect the American people. When we get a hint, any bit of evidence, we're moving; we're disrupting; we're denying. We're aware of the threat. And so we're on—we're on full game all the time. That's our job. We take it seriously.

But I need the tools necessary to do the job better. And that's why I went to the United States Congress to work with me to develop a Office of Homeland Security, so that we could better coordinate amongst the many agencies involved with securing the homeland, so we could set clear priorities amongst the agencies involved with protecting the homeland, so if need be, we could change cultures, so that some point in time I'm more able to say and future Presidents are more able to say, "We're doing everything in our power at the Federal level to protect America." It's our most important and solemn duty.

I laid the initiative out, and thanks to the strong leadership of Saxby—he understands this issue really well—thanks to his leader-

ship amongst—with others in the House of Representatives, the House responded quickly and passed a significant piece of legislation, an historic piece of legislation.

The Senate hadn't acted yet, because in order to pass the Department of Homeland Security, there's got to be a price for it. And that price will be to roll back important authority that every President since John F. Kennedy has had to act in the interests of national security. For 40 years, Presidents have had the ability to suspend labor rules in every Department in the Federal Government when our national security is at stake. Now the Senate leadership wants to roll back that authority in a time of war for one Department, whose job it is—will be to protect the American people during that war.

If the Senate had its way, I would have the authority to suspend the work rules in the Department of Agriculture but not in the office of homeland security. The Senate Democrat leaders want to tie the hands of this Department as we determine who to hire, who to fire, and whether or not people can be moved. Any President must have the capacity to put the right people at the right time at the right place, in order to respond to threats to our homeland.

The Senate debate revolves around whether or not there ought to be a thick book of rules micromanaging the process. I'll give you an example. Right after September the 11th, the Customs Service wanted to quickly assign its best, most qualified inspectors to the northern border. The union leaders objected. They said we had to bargain over these assignments; we had to take time to hash it out, rather than moving our best to where we thought we needed to move them immediately.

Now, I'm not going to accept a bill which will tie the hands of this President and future Presidents to be able to carry out one of our most solemn duties, which is to protect the homeland. There's no question in my mind, if Saxby Chambliss were in the Senate, I would not have to worry about his leadership or his vote on this important matter.

The best way to secure the homeland, however, is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, which is exactly what the United States of America is going to do. The

war on terror is a different kind of war. The old World War II vets who are here—and I want to thank you for your service—will remember the days when we could measure progress based upon tanks destroyed or battleships sunk or aircraft shot down. This is a different kind of war. We're fighting cold-blooded killers who hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. And they're willing to kill innocent people anywhere.

See, there's a huge difference between us and them. We value life. We say everybody counts; everybody is precious. They've hijacked a great religion and are willing to murder in the name of that religion. And that's the way they are. And there's only one way to deal with it. Therapy isn't going to work. And that's to find them—that's to find them. That's why this coalition of freedom-loving nations is incredibly important. That's why it's absolutely essential that we continue to remind people, either you're with us or you're with the enemy. That's why it's essential that we continue to make sure that when we say something, we mean it, and the world knows we mean it.

Next week, I'm going to be signing a defense appropriations bill. I want to thank the Members of Congress. I want to thank Saxby and others for getting this bill to my desk before they go home. It's important for us to send a message that we're going to make sure our troops have got the best pay, the best equipment, the best possible training. Any time we put somebody in harm's way, we owe it to them, and we owe it to their loved ones to support them. And that's exactly what this defense bill does.

And the second message we're going to send when I sign that bill is to friend and foe alike: It doesn't matter how long it takes: we're staying the course. When it comes to the defense of our freedom, there is no timetable, there is no calendar. When it comes to making sure our children can grow up in a free society, in a free country, this great land will do whatever it takes to secure our freedoms.

No, we're making progress. We're hauling them in one at a time. We've got over a couple thousand of them, and maybe that like number wasn't quite so lucky. Sometimes

you'll see us making progress, and sometimes you won't. Sometimes those people who chatter on the cables will be talking about it; sometimes you're just not going to hear. It's a manhunt, one at a time. And at the same time, we're going to deny them sanctuary. If we find them lighting somewhere, we're going to ask the host country to move them on. Either you're with us, or you're with them.

We're making good progress. I'm working hard to make sure America is a stronger place and a safer place, but we've all got to work together to make sure America is a better place too. And there's some things Government can do: Make sure every child is educated; make sure our health care systems work; make sure people are treated with respect and dignity; to make sure we change the tone in our National Capital and our State capital, get rid of all this needless politics, bring people together, achieve big objectives.

But a lot of what is going to make America continue to be the greatest country in the world depends upon you. If you want to fight evil, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you're interested in doing some good, if you're interested in joining me and Sonny and Saxby in making sure that those pockets of despair and loneliness and hopelessness get eradicated, the surest way to do so is to put your arm around somebody in need and say, "I love you. I love you."

Government can hand out money, but Government cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's why I'm such a strong believer in the Faith-Based Initiative, an initiative which will empower people of all faiths in America to do what they've been called to do, to help a neighbor in need, to love somebody.

See, it doesn't take much to help change America; it really doesn't. Helping somebody who's hungry, mentoring a child, going to a shut-in's house and saying, "What can I do to help," running a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop—it all adds up. It's those millions of acts of kindness and generosity that take place on a daily basis in America which truly defines the hopefulness of our country.

See, the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. Oh, they probably thought we'd file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] But instead, they hit a country which is strong and tough, a country, by remaining strong and tough and always remembers what we love, and that is freedom, that we can achieve peace.

I believe America will lead the world to peace. And at the same time, here at home we can make sure, by following our hearts, by being the compassionate country we are, to make sure this American experience shines brightly for every single citizen who lives in our country.

No, they hit us. But out of the evil is going to come some incredible good, because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Julianne Chambliss, wife of Representative Chambliss; Mary Perdue, wife of candidate Sonny Perdue; Clay Cox, candidate for Georgia's 13th Congressional District; Alec Poitevint, national committeeman, and Fred Cooper, former chairman, Georgia Republican Party; Eric J. Tanenblatt, former Georgia State chairman for the George W. Bush Presidential campaign; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at Read-Pattillo Elementary School in New Smyrna Beach, Florida

October 17, 2002

Thank you all for coming today. I'm—okay, read more than you watch TV. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank everybody for being here. I've spent a lot of my time talking about how to make sure America is a secure and safe country. It's on my mind because so long as we embrace freedom, there are, unfortunately, some people that want to hurt us. As long as we continue to hold dear to our heart the notion that free people should be able to worship the Almighty God any way they see fit, free people should be able to speak their mind, free people ought to be—or free people should be able to have a free press—

all those aspects of freedom which we hold dear and will never relinquish are the reasons why we have to worry about the safety of the American people.

And since we're never going to relent when it comes to our freedom, and since we have a responsibility to defend that which we hold dear for not only ourselves but for our children, we'll be dealing with this for a while. But make no mistake about it, we will prevail.

And as we worry about our safety, though, it's very important for us to always remember that we've got to work to make America a better place, not only a safer place and a stronger place but a better place. And the perfect place to make America a better place is in our classrooms all across the country. And so today I'm here to talk about the importance of making sure that every single child in America gets a quality education, to remind our country that reading is the key to all learning, that we believe that every child can learn to read, not just a few, not just those who might be in the—kind of the super districts, but every single child. Children whose parents may not speak English as a first language can learn to read. People who may come from the toughest of all circumstances, they can read. Everybody can read.

It is the great passion of many in our country, starting right here at Read-Pattillo. And that's why I'm here at this school. I'm here to praise the determination of its principal and the teachers and the parents to make sure not one child who goes to this school is left behind, that every child can learn.

The passion and vision I just described is shared by your Governor. I know. I know him well. [*Laughter*] I know his heart. I know his strength of conviction. I know his vision, and it's clear. It's a clear vision to a better day. So I'm honored to be with Jeb.

I appreciate John Mica, the Congressman, for coming today. I just had a very interesting meeting with some of your community leaders and people involved with reading and how to make it work. One such person was Bill Hall, who is the superintendent of the Volusia County schools, and I want to thank Bill. [*Applause*] I know enough about schools

to know that when they clap for the superintendent, that's a good sign, Bill. *[Laughter]*

I also know from my days as Governor and as a parent that a school is really only as good as the principal. If you have a great principal, you'll have the beginnings of a great school. Obviously, it takes more than a single soul to make sure that excellence is available for every child. But a great school starts with a principal who is dedicated, clear of vision, who sets high expectations, and of course, that principal is Marilyn Travis, right here at this school.

Judy Andersen is the head of the Volusia County school board. She was here—they had a—they call it a roundtable. It was actually square—*[laughter]*—a square roundtable discussion. But I thank Judy for coming.

I told her, I thought being on the school board was one of the—if not the, one of the toughest jobs in America. I know the rest of the school board members are here as well. I want to thank you for understanding that your job is to set high standards, make sure you're wise with the taxpayers' money, and then hire the best and unleash them to achieve excellence for every child. So thank you very much, Judy and the school board, for coming.

I do want to thank the square-table participants—*[laughter]*—Joe Torgesen, who is a professor of education at Florida State. I wish he could talk to you about the fact that reading is not an art but a science, that we're learning what works, and it's the application of what works that's incredibly important to make sure that every single child learns to read.

Then we had professors that were teaching teachers to teach, and we had teachers that were teaching teachers to teach, and we had kindergarten teachers that were teaching kids to read, and it was a very exciting meeting for me and Jeb. So I want to thank you all for coming.

I know we've got some elected officials here. I see the speaker of the house, Speaker Feeney, is here. I appreciate you being here, Speaker. I know other members of the legislature, both Republican and Democrat, are here. I appreciate Jim Vandergriff, the mayor of New Smyrna Beach. *[Applause]* That's a good sign, too, Mr. Mayor. Members

of your city council are here, and thank you all for coming.

The challenges, obviously, vary from district to district, and each school district has got a different problem—different problems in Texas than you have in Florida. When you get in our State or a State like Florida, the problems vary from district to district. But there are some effective schools that adhere to the same principles, and I want to share some of those with you right quick.

First, there is a culture of excellence. A successful school has a culture of excellence. The way I like to phrase it is, a successful school is full of people who are willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations, that people understand that if you set low standards, we're going to get lousy results, that if you believe that there are certain children who can't learn, then certain children won't learn.

And so an excellent school like this one where we are has got the highest of high standards, that people throughout the whole school believe that excellence is possible, because they believe every child can learn.

A good school has got a good principal, as I just mentioned. The principal is the person that sets the tone, sets the pace, clarifies the vision. A good school is a school that's got teachers who are not only committed to the noble profession of teaching—and it is a noble profession—but also committed with the knowledge that every child can learn; teachers who work hard and recognize that if there is needed instruction, they're more than willing to learn the latest, that they're not satisfied with the status quo, that they're constantly working hard to make sure that the vision of every child learning is achieved.

Obviously, a good school is a school where parents understand that good education begins at home, where parents have got a deep appreciation of the opportunity and are supportive of the schools. If they find failure, of course, they're willing to blow the whistle on failure, but they're also to work to achieve excellence. They're positive influences, not only at the home but also at the school.

I wasn't kidding when I said our kids ought to be reading more than they watch TV. To

me, that's a parental responsibility, to encourage their children to practice, to encourage their children to read. There's nothing wrong with watching a TV show occasionally. But practicing reading is incredibly important to become a skilled student. So listen to your mothers. [*Laughter*] Governor Bush has listened to his. [*Laughter*]

A good school has a curriculum that emphasizes the basics and is based upon sound science. In other words, a good school is a school that has adopted a curriculum which works. There's a lot of talk about curriculum, the reading curriculum. We've had a great debate about which curriculum to use when it comes to reading programs, and you know it as well as I do: There's a big, deep, ideological divide.

One of the things I tried to do as the Governor of Texas—I know your Governor has called upon those who have actually studied it, who know that the fact that reading is a science, that have been able to work with districts to develop a curriculum that is proven. It doesn't sound good or feel good; it works. And that's the crucial thing to make sure that every child learns to read.

A good school is willing to determine whether or not each child is, in fact, learning to read by measuring. A good school is one that says, "I want to know whether or not standards are being met."

See, if you believe every child can learn to read, then it's logical to ask the question, "You know, are the children succeeding?" It's logical, and you want to know that. You want to know that to determine whether or not your dreams are being met. You want to know that to determine whether or not the curriculum is working. You want to know that to determine which children need additional help.

One of the key components to successful schools is the willingness of people to use an accountability system to reinforce the positive and to address failure before it becomes acute, and that's essential. By all of these standards, this school we're standing in is a highly effective, successful school. It is a school which innovates. It uses computer programs to stimulate the students' imagination. It teaches phonics and grammar, the

basics. It starts with the basics. It gives students incentives.

There's an incentive program in this school. The more you read, the more points you earn. The more difficult the reading assignment, the more points you earn there as well. It recognizes and rewards personal achievement, based upon actual books read. It helps develop writing schools. It's caught my imagination. I told the Governor, I wish they had done this in Sam Houston Elementary School in Midland, Texas. They've got an innovative program called baseball writing. It encourages kids to learn how to write by using baseball as the go-by. And there's a base-by-base approach to writing essays and papers, all aimed at making sure by the fifth grade the student is becoming a more sophisticated writing—writer.

It's an incredibly important part. Writing and reading go hand in hand. Writing is sometimes a lost art, and this school focuses on writing by using an innovative way to encourage young writers to get to be better writers.

They use tests here to determine what students are in danger of falling behind. No child should be left behind. And they use a test to make sure.

And the important thing is—and other school districts can use this model, and other schools around the country should use this model—they use the accountability system as a way to determine who needs extra help after school. And that's incredibly important. It's intensive focus so that every child continues to move forward.

They encourage students to take their books home. They give parents tips on how to be teachers themselves. The instruction follows the child into the home. Some parents need a little help on how to be a better parent when it comes to what's taking place in the school. And so the results are clear.

The Read-Pattillo Elementary School is proving that scientifically based reading instruction works and gets results.

You know, there's kind of an attitude in some places that certain kids just can't get there, the so-called economically disadvantaged just can't achieve. This school flies right in the face of that stereotype. The kids

here are what they call economically disadvantaged, more than half are. And yet when you look at the third grade and the fourth grade and the fifth graders, they all score above district and State averages.

This school increased its rating from a C in 1998 on the Florida testing to an A. And that's important for parents to know. And that's an important fact for teachers to know and your principal to know. It's a fact—important fact for the school board members to know. It's an important fact for the community to know. It must make you feel proud to know you've got a school which has defied the so-called odds, and now you're A. It's important to know you've got an A in your midst.

It's also important to know whether your school is not an A. It gives you a chance to ask the question, "Wait a minute. There's one school in Volusia County I know is an A. How come ours isn't an A?" It's important to be in a position where you're able to say, "It matters how we rank, because no child should be left behind."

There's obviously—I'm a big advocate of local control of schools. I love the idea of a principal feeling confident in the structure to be able to try different things. I really like the idea of a superintendent—of giving them power to create change and innovation at the school level. I think that's really important. I think your—this charter district, for example, is a really interesting innovation that was started at the State level. Freedom was granted. So I'm a big believer in local control of schools.

But I want you to know that there is a role for the Federal Government. The Federal Government has a responsibility as well as the State Government to move forward with educational excellence. The No Child Left Behind Act was a combination—it's interesting—change of attitude in Washington, and that is, we substantially increased money available for States, particularly Title I children as well as this new reading program, which I'm going to describe.

The Federal Government is providing \$50 billion now. It's an increase of more than 18 percent between '01 and today. The Florida schools, for example, received \$2 billion from the Federal Government. We've increased—

we've asked for \$175 million increase for next year for the Florida schools alone.

But the reason—the change is, and it's one thing to focus on education funding, and that's important—but the change is, for the first time, we've asked, in return for money, why don't you show us whether or not you're succeeding. For the first time we said, "Here's an increase in funding now, and it's up to you to spend it, and we'll try to give you more flexibility. We want the Governors to have more flexibility. We want the school districts to have more flexibility. But in return we expect you to set high standards and produce measurable, positive results. In return for the increase of funding, we expect more return on the money." After all, it's your money to begin with.

And so part of that—part of that insistence is a—kind of the kernel of the reform is an accountability system. We expect each State to design accountability system to measure. And you've done that in Florida. And you've done a really good job of that. And frankly—I'm used to the testing debate. I've heard, "You test too much." They say, "You're teaching the test." If you teach a child to read, you're teaching a child a skill, not teaching the test. And the child will then be able to pass the test.

You should allow no excuse, and nobody should allow an excuse, in my judgment, across America, to undermine accountability. It does the children a disservice to undermine the accountability system. Otherwise, you just shuffle kids through, and that's unacceptable in America.

There must be an accountability system that has consequences. Otherwise, we're going to have the old system where we just say, "Well, maybe they'll learn to read." And then we find out when they get out of high school they can't read, and we realize we have failed in our obligations.

No, accountability is a crucial part of educational excellence and educational reform. And it's very important that all States take seriously what we insist upon, and that is, in return for money, we expect you to do what's right by each single child that lives in your State. We're committed to investing in scientific approaches on reading, because

we understand—all of us should understand that if a child can't read, it doesn't matter.

My friend Phyllis Hunter from Houston, Texas, she said when I was there, she said, "Governor, you've got to understand. Your reading initiative is basically saying that you understand reading is the new civil right. If you want every child to realize the American Dream and experience the greatness of this country, then we've got to teach every child to read, and it starts with reading."

And that's why one of the cornerstones of the—of this bill we passed, in Washington, DC—by the way, a bill supported by both Republicans and Democrats. I told them earlier, I said, "We're finally beginning to get some things right in Washington, where teaching every child to read is a heck of a lot more important than promoting any political parties."

And so we've got this focus on reading, because we understand that when each child learns to read, this is going to be a much more hopeful society. One of the things we've done is, we've granted—started granting money to States. Florida was one of the first States to qualify for the Reading First grant, \$46 million, because you've got a Governor who understands and a legislature who understands, you've got principals and teachers who understand.

The money is being used to train teachers. Teacher training is absolutely essential to making sure that a reading—national reading initiative works. Teachers need the skills necessary to implement what their heart tells them to do. Their heart says, "We want to teach every child to read." They need, if need be—now, many teachers don't need to be retrained, but the idea of teaching teachers on a curriculum which works is an incredibly important part of having a successful program.

There's nothing more frustrating, it seems like to me, to have a teacher anxious—so anxious to go into a classroom and impart knowledge, but yet not have the latest—the latest science on reading, the latest skills necessary. And so, one of the key components of a Reading First Initiative in any State is going to be to take the money and apply it to teacher training. And it's going to work; you mark my words.

With this national focus, with accountability standards in place, with the understanding of how to teach children how to read—a much better understanding today than we've really ever had before—and the desire at all levels of government to make sure the most important person involved in teaching a child—the teacher—has the skills necessary, we're going to achieve an objective that a lot of people didn't think we could achieve. Our kids are going to learn to read.

We're going to be the best readers in the world. And when our kids learn to read, you watch what happens. There are going to be great scientists coming out of our schools, great mathematicians. All things, all excellence in education starts with making sure every single child, no matter where he or she lives, can read. And that's what's going to happen in the United States of America.

I mentioned that one of the things we'll stay focused on, and should, is making sure America is a better place. And there's ways Government can help. But one of the ways to make sure America is a—constantly a better place, is to encourage, empower the true strength of the country, which are our citizens. The strengths of America are the citizens of America, the hearts and souls of our fellow countrymen.

The reason I bring that up is, we've got an extraordinary person that met me at the airport today, Fannie Cleland. She tried to convince me she was 91 years old. [*Laughter*] I didn't believe it.

See, Fannie understands what I know, that we can change America one heart, one person at a time, and that, while one person can't do everything to help people in need or to put a light where there's darkness, one person can do something. One person can help be—to change one child's life. In her case, she's changed many children's lives, because she is a tutor, a mentor. She knows that one way to fight some of the evil done to America is to do some good, to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself, to have the willingness to put your arm around a child and say, "Hey, I want to help you. I want to help you learn to read."

My call to America and Americans is, use the example of this fine lady, that if you care

deeply about the future of your country, support your schools, support your teachers. But also, when you find somebody who hurts, somebody who is in need, somebody who needs food or shelter or just somebody who needs love, be that person who is willing to give that love.

There's nothing this country can't achieve. We're going to achieve peace and have a peaceful world. We can also make sure the great hope of America shines brightly in every corner of this country.

Listen, thanks for giving me a chance to come by. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:27 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Florida Speaker of the House Tom Feeney; and Phyllis Hunter, consultant, Texas Reading Initiative.

Satellite Remarks to the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

October 17, 2002

Thank you all. I appreciate those kind remarks, Rosario. You're a *gran amiga*. *Buenos dias*. I wish I could be with you in person today as the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce salutes Hispanic businesswomen.

The USHCC is one of this country's great business organizations. America's more than 1.2 million Hispanic-owned businesses are transforming our economy and transforming our country. I'm particularly glad that the USHCC is paying tribute to Hispanic businesswomen. After all, the Hispanic businesswomen are emerging leaders of the American economy. Their success is creating jobs, building communities, and making our Nation more open and more inclusive. I am grateful and America is grateful for the accomplishments of these Hispanic businesswomen.

I appreciate so very much the chair of the board of directors of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. I appreciate so very much the president and CEO. I'm honored that you all would invite me. I want you to know that I'm a strong believer in small business because I know that small businesses are the pathway to advancement and success

for many Americans, especially women and new arrivals to our country and to minorities. I believe in small business because I know that two-thirds of all new jobs created in America every year come from small businesses. More than one million small businesses are owned by Hispanic Americans. And women-owned small businesses are growing twice as fast as all other United States firms. And this is good news for America.

Small businesses are a great equalizer. The only connections you really need to succeed are happy customers. The only credentials you really need are good products. The only values you need are a willingness to work hard and take risks.

Running a business also brings many personal rewards. You enjoy the freedom and pride that comes from being your own boss. You achieve success based upon your own abilities. You're helping others achieve success by providing them with jobs.

Workers and entrepreneurs create the wealth of America, not government. Yet, government does have a responsibility to create an environment where small businesses can grow and prosper. Small businesses grow when taxes are low, when taxes are low for workers and when taxes are low for entrepreneurs. Low taxes mean more money in the pockets of the people who are building America.

Small businesses grow when the Government considers the impact of its regulations, the impact those regulations will have particularly on small employers. We must avoid burdening our entrepreneurs with unnecessary rules and procedures. Small businesses grow when the Government's contracting policies encourage competition and don't unfairly favor large businesses at the expense of smaller firms.

And small businesses grow when entrepreneurs can build their businesses without the fear of falling prey to frivolous lawsuits, all designed to make trial lawyers even wealthier.

Our Nation has a responsibility to create an environment where the talents of men and women of every origin and background are recognized and rewarded.

Rosario mentioned my appointments to my Government. I am proud to serve many, many exceptional Hispanic Americans. One of my jobs is to put the best people in the right jobs in every branch of Government. I've done so in the executive branch, and I'll do so in the judiciary branch as well. Right now the Senate Judiciary Committee is now considering a friend of mine, a guy named Mike—Miguel Estrada. He's my nominee for the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. If confirmed, he'll be the first Hispanic ever to serve on this important court.

No one can deny that he's well-qualified. No one can deny he's a great lawyer and that he's highly skilled. Yet unfortunately, there are Senators who play politics with Miguel Estrada's nomination. There are Senators searching for any reason to defeat him.

I call upon the Senate leadership to treat Miguel Estrada with dignity and respect and to bring his nomination up for the full Senate to confirm him before they adjourn. He's an American success story. He's an inspiration to many Americans, and he'll be an outstanding judge.

And so I appreciate all of you all who are there today. I appreciate so very much Elizabeth and George and the many of you there today to bear witness to the great opportunities found in this country, opportunities borne of freedom and equality. These values make us strong, and we will defend them, no matter how long it takes.

Gracias por su dedicacion a la excelencia. Gracias por demostrar que el sueno Americano es posible para todos los que lo desean en su corazon. Y aprecio su amor por esta gran nacion.

Y Dios los bendiga a todos, y que Dios los bendiga a Los Estados Unidos.

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at 4:19 p.m. from Read-Pattillo Elementary School, New Smyrna Beach, FL, to the meeting in Los Angeles, CA. In his remarks, he referred to Rosario Marin, U.S. Treasurer; and Elizabeth Lisboa-Farrow, chair of the board of directors, and George Herrera, chairman and chief executive officer, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Proclamation 7611—Year of Clean Water, 2002–2003

October 17, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On October 18, 2002, our Nation marks the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act and begins the Observance of the Year of Clean Water. This landmark environmental legislation has been central to the important progress we have made as a Nation in improving the quality of our drinking water and the health of our waters, wetlands, and watersheds. During this time, we renew our commitment to building on these successes and to developing new approaches and partnerships to meet our environmental challenges.

The Clean Water Act of 1972 and the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 have helped our citizens enjoy one of the safest and cleanest water supplies in the world. Under the Clean Water Act, the Federal Government has provided more than \$80 billion in wastewater assistance to the States and localities. This fundamentally important investment has ensured that 165 million citizens now benefit from modern sewage treatment, up from 86 million in 1968. The important advances in waste water treatment since the Clean Water Act's passage constitute one of the major achievements in modern American public health.

In the last 30 years, the overall health of our marine waters, lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands has also dramatically improved. The Federal Government has cooperated with States, tribes, local communities, businesses, and concerned individuals to reduce significantly all forms of water pollution, making our waters better suited for recreation and other pursuits and more hospitable to aquatic life. Recent studies show that we are close to achieving our goal of halting overall wetlands loss, and we are hopeful that in the near future we will begin increasing the overall function and value of our wetlands. As we look to the challenges ahead, the Clean

Water Act will be an important mainstay and tool for further progress.

As part of our Nation's long-term commitment to protecting our environment and natural resources, we must continue to focus on cleaner air, water, and land; healthier citizens, and vibrant ecosystems. We will continue to collaborate with private organizations, landowners, and all levels of government to encourage the development of new technologies and innovative approaches to protecting our environment. Through policies and programs that recognize regional differences, employ market forces, and empower individuals to be good stewards of the earth, we can and will meet the environmental challenges of the future.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the year beginning October 18, 2002, as the Year of Clean Water in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. I call upon all Americans to observe this year with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, and to join in setting good examples of environmental stewardship in our daily lives.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 21, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 18, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 22.

Remarks at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri October 18, 2002

Thanks for coming. Thanks for the warm welcome. I'm honored to be here at the—on the campus of this fine university. I'm proud to be here in southwest Missouri. I

love the values of the heartland represented in this part of our country, the values of faith, the values of family, the love of our country. I appreciate you coming out to say hello. These are the values which make Missouri a great State and make our Nation a great nation.

I want to thank you for your friendship. I want to thank you for your prayers. I want to thank you for your concern about our political process. I appreciate your interest. I appreciate your willingness to take a stand. And I am here in the State of Missouri to take a stand: The best person running for the United States Senate is Jim Talent.

I need him in the Senate to work with him. We've got some big problems facing our country. But there's no doubt in my mind that we can achieve anything we put our mind to. There's no doubt in my mind that no matter how high the hurdle, the United States of America, when we put our mind to something, can cross that hurdle.

Jim Talent shares my optimism about the future of this country because he knows what I know: This country is blessed with the finest people on the face of the Earth, and that, by trusting the people and calling upon the best of America, we can achieve anything—I mean anything—we set our mind to.

I appreciate Jim Talent's values. He's a family man. He's got his priorities straight. He's a man who doesn't need a focus group or a poll to tell him what to think. He's more than happy to stand on principle. He's more than happy to say, "This is what I believe, and I'm not changing." And I appreciate a man who's willing to take those values, the Missouri values, and the sense of purpose to Washington, DC.

He's also got a record. See, he's already been up there once. He's shown us what he can do. And when he was up there, he wasn't afraid to take the lead. He is one of the key authors of one of the most important pieces of social legislation in the last decade, and that is the welfare reform bill that transformed millions of lives in America, because he knows what I know, that dignity is found when you find work, that work is the cornerstone of any life that has got dignity.

I appreciate his understanding of small business. See, he is an advocate for small

business in Washington, DC. We need that kind of attitude up there. See, after all, our economy is kind of bumping along. It's not as strong as it's going to be. So long as we keep working on it, it's going to get better.

But one of the things we've got to understand is that most new jobs in America are created by small businesses. And therefore, we've got to have somebody in the United States Senate who understands that and is willing to work on an environment that encourages the growth of small businesses. Jim Talent's got a record, and he's got a good record.

He also will work to change the tone in Washington. Listen, we're proud Republicans, but we've got to serve something bigger than political party in these times of stress on our country. It's important to put all this aside and focus on what's right for the American people. And Jim Talent understands that. I'm proud to stand by his side.

And we share something else in common: We both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] He married Brenda. I married Laura. And by the way, the First Lady, she sends her love and her greetings. She's heading down to Texas today, so you drew the short straw. [*Laughter*] She's doing great, though. I want to remind you that when I married her, she was a public school librarian. [*Applause*] Public school librarians united for Laura. [*Laughter*] She didn't care for politics when I married her. She didn't particularly care for politicians when I married her. [*Laughter*] Thank goodness she said yes.

People have got to see why I asked her to marry me. She's calm. She's steady. She cares deeply about our children. She loves education. It's our top priority. A lot of people are still wondering why she said yes. [*Laughter*] But nevertheless, she's doing great. I can't tell you how proud I am of her, and I love her dearly.

I want to thank the senior Senator from Missouri for being here. He's done a fabulous job on behalf of the citizens of Missouri. He is a man whose judgment I trust, whose vote I can count on. He's a strong ally. He's got the right instincts. He's got a great voting record. And that is Senator Kit Bond.

I appreciate so very much the fact that your Congressman has joined us today. Roy

Blunt is effective. He's smart. He can count votes. I appreciate his support, and I appreciate his friendship.

I appreciate the fact that former Congressman Mel Hancock is here. I want to thank Congressman Hancock for coming.

You've got yourself a hot Senate race—State senate race. This race matters. It matters a lot. You've got a good man running, a good, down-to-earth fellow who's going to tell you what he thinks. He's going to do in office what he said he's going to do. And that's Dan Clemens.

I've got a great Cabinet. I've asked people from all across our country to serve our Government in my Cabinet. You trained one of the best ones in my Cabinet. Yesterday morning I met with the Attorney General. He said, "You make sure you remind my folks at home that I haven't forgot where I came from." John Ashcroft is doing a great job for America.

And finally, I appreciate you letting some of my fellow Texans cross the State line. They must have not checked these boys' backgrounds before they came. [*Laughter*] I've known the Gatlin Brothers for a long time, and I really appreciate the three brothers coming. I'm—Larry is my good buddy. He is a fine, fine, fine American, and Steve and Rudy are as well. I hope you're enjoying them as much as I've enjoyed knowing them. And I'm real proud their here. I want to thank the Gatlin boys for coming today.

Now, I've got some things on my mind that I want to share with you. I've got some issues I want to discuss with you. I've got some reasons to be here besides just politics. I need somebody to help me deal with our economy. Now listen, the foundation for growth is strong. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. We've got the best workers in the world. Productivity is high in America. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong in this country. The foundations for growth are strong. But so long as somebody is looking for work can't find work, I think we have a problem. And so therefore, we need to put people in the United States Senate who wants to think about—when it comes to the economy—how to create jobs.

The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create

an environment in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses, in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which anybody who's got a dream can work hard and realize that dream. Most jobs, as I mentioned, are created by small businesses. For the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of job creation, we've got to have people in the Senate who understand that when a person has more money in his or her pocket, it will serve as a stimulus to job growth.

You see, here's the page of the textbook which we've read. It says that when a person has more money, he or she is likely to demand a good or a service. And when you demand a good or service in our economy, somebody is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of making sure our people can find work, the tax relief came at the absolute right time in American history.

But here's why we're still talking about it. Because of a quirk in the rules in the United States Senate, after a 10-year period, the tax relief plan we passed goes away, unless the Congress makes it permanent. And that's the issue.

The tax relief plan over the next decade for the people of Missouri, if permanent, would mean there is \$27 billion in income tax relief and death tax relief in your pockets. That's more money for you to have to make decisions about. It's your money to begin with, by the way. There's \$4 billion additional money in your pocket because of the tax relief on the child credit. There's a \$1.5 billion money in the Missouri people's pockets because we're doing something about the marriage penalty. See, what we think is that the Tax Code ought to encourage marriage.

It's like the Senate giveth, and then the Senate taketh away. [*Laughter*] In this case, the Senate giveth, and the Senate taketh away over \$32 billion that would help economic expansion and growth. There's no question in my mind that Jim Talent understands what I'm talking about, that in order to make sure our economy is strong so people can plan, so the entrepreneurial spirit remains strong in America, we need to make the tax cuts permanent.

One of the worst taxes that we have on the books that we're trying to get rid of and won't get rid of unless we have a Senator and Senators who vote to make it permanent, is the death tax. This death tax hurts Missouri farmers. This death tax, it hurts small-business owners. It's a bad tax. Don't take my word for it. Let me quote some of citizens in your neighborhood.

There's a guy named Jim Staley. He's a fourth generation family farmer in Willard, Missouri. He wants to pass his farm on some day to his children. That makes sense. The guy's working the land. He's got some kids. He says, "I want my kids to be able to work the land, too. I want the family farm to survive." He remembers when his daddy died, he had trouble trying to make sure the farm stayed in the family and didn't go to the Government. He remembers those times. So he's worried about it. Here's what he says: "It's a shame that Americans are taught that if you work hard all your life, you can pass it along to your family, and they can work to make it better. But when it comes down to it, the Government ends up taking it away." That's what the death tax does.

It's a bad tax. It's a bad tax. It's a bad tax because it taxes assets twice. It's a bad tax because it prevents somebody who owns something from passing the asset on to whoever he or she chooses.

Fellers Fixtures, right here in Springfield, Missouri, Carl Fellers, here's what he thinks. First of all, he says he thinks he pays enough taxes already. See, most small businesses pay tax at the individual income tax level, because you're a sole proprietorship or a limited partnership. When you reduce rates on people, you're also reducing rates on small businesses. But he doesn't believe that he ought to pay more taxes than he has already when he dies. And neither do his children.

No, we need to make sure, for the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of job creation, that you elect you a United States Senator who makes sure the tax relief plan is permanent.

Jim Talent will be a Senator who's committed to making sure we have an education system that we're proud of. I signed a great piece of education reform. It challenges the

soft bigotry of low expectations. It holds people to a high standard. It says, in return for receiving Federal money—and we cranked up the level of Federal money, by the way, for education spending—but in return for receiving Federal money, you've got to show us. Just like you say in your State motto, "Show Me" whether or not the money is being well spent. Show me whether or not our children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. We ask that question because we want to make sure not one single child gets left behind in America.

Jim Talent knows what I know, that medicine has changed, and Medicare hasn't, that medicine is modern, and Medicare is stuck in the old ways. We need a Senator up there who can work with people in both parties to make sure that we modernize Medicare for the sake of our seniors. Modernizing Medicare means that we've got to have a prescription drug plan for our seniors.

One of my most important responsibilities is to put good people on the Federal bench. Our definition of good people obviously are people who are honest, who know the law, who are there to serve something other than themselves, who won't use the bench as a legislator might use the bench from which to write new law, but to strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States. And the Senate has got a lousy record when it comes to my judges.

Look at the percentage that they've approved. It's the worst record in modern history. It's worse than how the Senate treated President Clinton, President Bush 41, President Reagan. They're holding up the nominees. And when they put some of my good nominees forward, they're not telling the truth about their records. They're distorting their records. They're playing shameless politics with the judges I put forward. You need to have a United States Senator like Jim Talent who will not play shameless politics with the judges I've put forward. No, there's a lot of things we can do.

We're going to work together to make sure America is a strong country by having a good economy and making sure we fulfill our promises to our children and to our seniors. I know I can work with this man.

I also will be working with the next Congress to protect America. We learned a sad lesson on September the 11th, 2001, and that is that we're no longer immune from attacks from an enemy which hates us, that oceans no longer protect us like we used to think they could. It's changed the dynamics. The battlefield is here at home.

People must understand that there's still an enemy which lurks and desires to hurt. They do it because of what we love. They hate what we stand for. We love freedom. We love the fact that people can worship an almighty God any way he or she chooses. We love every aspect about our freedoms. We love our free press, and we love the discourse and—a political discourse in a free society, and we hold those freedoms dearly. And we're not changing. No matter how they try to terrorize, how they try to threaten, we're not changing. And so long as we don't change, we have to do everything we can to protect America in the new realities we face. It's a dangerous world, but nobody's going to cause us to retreat from this world.

Obviously, my job is not only to deal with threats that we find in these dark caves but also to anticipate threats. I want to thank the United States Congress for speaking with one voice about a tyrant and a dictator who has constantly defied the world, who refuses to disarm, who, in the new reality, serves as a true and real threat not only to the United States but a threat to our friends in the Middle East, a threat to other freedom-loving countries.

The world has been put on notice, Mr. Saddam Hussein is now on notice. We expect him to disarm. We expect him to live up to the obligations that he has told the world that he would meet. We expect the United Nations to be the United Nations, not the League of Nations. We expect them to join us in keeping the peace, by holding this dictator to account. That's what we expect.

No, the threats are real. It's a different era. And this country will deal with these threats in an open way and a firm way and a resolved way, because we love our freedoms. We understand the biggest obligation we have, at least the biggest obligation I have, is to do everything I can to protect the homeland. There are a lot of good people working hard

to protect the homeland. Anytime we find a hint about something that might be done to America, we're moving on it. Anytime we find any evidence that somebody might be thinking about harming our country, there are a lot of folks on the case. We're disrupting; we're denying; we're doing everything we can in our power and within the United States Constitution to protect the homeland.

And that's why I went to the United States Congress and asked them to create a Department of Homeland Security, so I can tell the American people and future Presidents can tell the American people that, "We're doing everything we can to protect you—everything we can." You see, there's over 100 agencies involved with the protection of our homeland. It means they're kind of scattered about. If the number one priority of America is to protect the homeland, it seems to make sense to me to put them under one agency, so we can make that the number one priority that everybody involved with homeland security must meet.

And we're having a big debate up there about it. Sometimes in our Nation's Capital, they talk to much—[*laughter*—and do too little. Sometimes they do too much when they should be talking. [*Laughter*]

The House passed a good homeland security bill. The House heard my call to have a bipartisan approach to protecting the homeland. The House heard the call to put aside politics and not let interests—be interested in special interests but to focus on the American people, not only today but down the road. And the House passed a bill. They're stuck in the Senate. The Senate can't get it done right now. It's stuck.

And here's the issue. The Senate is saying, "Sure, Mr. President, you can have a homeland security bill, but there's going to be a price." And here's the price. They want to roll back an important authority that every President since John F. Kennedy has had, and that authority is this: For 40 years, a President has had the capacity to suspend labor rules in every Department of Government when the national security is at stake. The President has had the capacity to be able to change rules in order to protect America.

One example of what I'm talking about, just so you'll know clearly, is that Customs agents, we thought, ought to be wearing radiological detection devices, just in case somebody tried to smuggle a weapon of mass destruction into America. We thought that made sense for them to wear these. The head of the union said, "Uh-uh, that must be voluntary. You can't make anybody do that, and therefore, let's have a collective bargaining session over it," which might have taken a year's time.

See, we don't have time for that kind of thing. The Senate wants to roll back my authority. The Senate wants to say, "You can have that authority, Mr. President, to suspend workers' rights or workers' rules in the case of a national emergency, in the Agriculture Department, but not for the Homeland Security." And that's not right.

Jim Talent understands what I'm talking about. You put him in the Senate; we'll get us a good homeland security bill, which will make it easier for Presidents to protect America.

I need to be able to put the right people at the right place at the right time, and that's what the Senate must hear, loud and clear. And one way they can hear it is, they can hear it from the people. You can express yourselves, right in the ballot box. That's the way you can send a message loud and clear about the importance of having a Homeland Security Department that will work today, that will work tomorrow, and will work for decades to come, because this threat, folks, is real for a while.

And that's why the best way to protect the American homeland is not to hope these fellows change their mind, not to hope that they go get therapy to make them think different, but it's to hunt them down, one by one, and bring them to justice—what America is going to do.

We are in a different kind of war, and we're still at war. We're in a war unlike the past. See, the past you used to say, "Well, we're making progress because we've blown up a couple of tanks or we sunk a ship or their Air Force isn't as strong anymore." These people hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. See, they don't appreciate the value of life like we do. In

America, we believe every life is precious; everybody has worth. These people don't value life, and they hijack a great religion and murder in the name of that religion.

They just did that recently in Indonesia, and we'll be joining our friends in Australia in a day of mourning for the terrible tragedy that took place. We lost lives. They lost a lot of lives. Listen, these are killers, nothing but coldblooded killers, and we're going to treat them that way, and we're going to hunt them down, one person at a time.

And we're making progress, thanks to a great United States military, and thanks to friends and allies. We're making progress. One reason we're making progress is because of the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with them," still stands. It's still relevant. Our coalition is still rounding people up. It's a different kind of war. Sometimes you'll see progress, and sometimes you won't. The other day, a guy named bin al-Shibh, he popped his head up. He's no longer a problem. He was significant because he was to have been the twentieth hijacker. And he was still plotting, and he was still planning. I bet you we've captured over a couple of thousand of them, maybe up to nearly 3,000 by now. Like number, they weren't as lucky. We're going to deny them sanctuary. We're going to find them. We're going to put them on the run.

It doesn't matter how long it takes, my fellow Americans, when it comes to our freedom, it doesn't matter how many years it takes, the United States of America will stay the course, because we will defend America, no matter the cost.

I'm going to sign a defense bill next week. The Congress has gotten it to my desk, and I appreciate that. That is the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President, for two reasons. I want to—I asked for that request, one, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best possible pay, and the best equipment. We owe that to our troops, and we owe it to their loved ones. And the other message is, the other message to friend and foe alike is that we take our responsibilities seriously, that we love our freedoms. We love our country, and we're not quitting. There's not a calendar that says,

well, gosh, it must be time to haul in; it must be time to shut her down. That's just not the way I think, and that's not the way America thinks.

I can't imagine what was going through the mind of the enemy. They must have thought that America was so selfish, so materialistic, so self-absorbed that after 9/11/2001, we might have filed a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] That's not us.

I want you to know that out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good, that that's what we believe as a nation. And one of the—what's going to happen, I believe, by being strong and firm and being clear in our resolve, is that we can achieve peace. It's my dream, is to achieve peace. I want there to be peace for the American people. Since we value every life, and everybody counts, no matter where they live, we want there to be peace in parts of the region that have quit on peace. I believe it can happen. I do. I believe by being strong and resolved and standing on principle and understanding freedom belongs to everybody, not just a few, that we can have a peaceful and more hopeful world.

And here at home, the evil done to America can help us deal with a serious problem. There are people in our country who hurt. There is loneliness and despair. Amidst our plenty, there are pockets of addiction; there are people who aren't loved; there are people who wonder whether the American experience is meant for them. So long as any of us hurt, we all hurt. We must step back from our materialism and ask the question, "What can I do to help America?" And the best way that you can help America is by loving a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

No, the enemy hit us. Today—the enemy hit us, but today we're a stronger nation because we refuse to back down, but also because we've redefined patriotism as somebody who does more than put their hand over their heart. A patriot is somebody who is willing to put their arm around somebody who hurts, somebody in need—somebody who says, "I love you." I want you to be one of those people. One of us can't do everything in society, but one of us can do something to help somebody who needs a hand, somebody who needs love, somebody—somebody

who knows or somebody who cares about them.

Today we've got Erin Bryant, who goes right here—to school here. She's an active member of the Student Community Action Team at Southwest Missouri State. She spends time volunteering to make somebody's life better. She's involved with people who want to feed those who are hungry and house those who are homeless.

Be a Boy Scout leader. Be a Girl Scout leader. Do something. And it's the gathering momentum of the millions of acts of kindness and decency which will allow this great land to stand squarely in the face of evil. No, the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They hit the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. And we will show the world why.

There's no question in my mind that even though there's hurdles ahead of us, we can achieve a lot. We can achieve peace, and we can make sure the light shines brightly, the light of hope, in every corner on this great land. I say that with confidence because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest people, on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:48 a.m. in the Hammons Student Center. In his remarks, he referred to Brenda Talent, wife of candidate Jim Talent; entertainers Larry, Steve, and Rudy Gatlin; Carl A. Fellers, president, Fellers Fixtures, Inc.; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Remarks at the Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, Minnesota

October 18, 2002

Thank you all for coming. Yes, kind of sounds like the Metrodome in here. I appreciate so many good folks coming to say hello. You know, I'm aware of Rochester. After all, I still listen to my mother. [*Laughter*] She's a proud member of the board of Mayo Clinic.

I thank you for coming today. I'm here to talk about some of the challenges we meet as a nation. I want you to know that I'm incredibly optimistic about this Nation's future. And I'm here to support a man for the United States Senate who shares my optimism about America. There's no doubt in my mind that what is best for Minnesota and what is best for America is that Norm Coleman become the next United States Senator. I'm here to support the ticket, and there's no question in my mind that you need to have Tim Pawlenty as the next Governor for Minnesota.

I want to thank you all for your concern about our country. I want to thank you for your participation in the process. Thank you for taking your time to look the candidates over. Thank you for understanding that being a part of America is the obligation to participate in our process. I want to thank you for what you have done for America. I want to thank you for what you're going to do. And that is, man the phones; go to your coffee shops; go to your houses of worship; remind the people of our community, whether they be Republicans or Democrats or couldn't care less—[*laughter*]*—that when you find a good one, you ought to support him. And you found some good ones in these candidates here in Minnesota.*

I'm also glad to be in the breadbasket of America. We eat because of you. [*Laughter*] I love the values of this part of the world—faith and family, love of country—I love the values of this part of the world. Hard-working, good, honest, decent people, people I'm proud to call friend, people neighbors are proud to call friend—no, you're the strength of our great country. And nothing we can't overcome, because we're the finest country on the face of the Earth.

I want to thank the good folks here at Rochester Community and Technical College for your hospitality. I particularly want to thank—it's kind of hard to welcome a President, I know, but you've done a heck of a good job, plus you've got a Texan running the deal. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Don Supalla, who's the president, for his hospitality.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are with us: Gil Gutknecht, who's a

friend of mine. Thank you for coming, Gil. I appreciate you coming. I want to thank Congressman Mark Kennedy for being here as well. Mark's a fine one. You lowered your standards; you let somebody from Missouri travel with me—[*laughter*]—but he's a fine Congressman named Roy Blunt. I appreciate Congressman Blunt being here with us today.

I want to thank the people who are running for office. I want to thank Carol Molnau, who's running for the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Minnesota. I want to thank John Kline, who will make a fine United States Congressman. Clyde Billington is running for the Congress; we need to help Clyde. And Dan Stevens is running for Congress. I want to thank these candidates for running.

You drew the short straw today. You didn't get my mother, and you didn't get my wife. [*Laughter*] But Laura sends her best. She's doing great. She's doing really good. She's an amazing lady. You know, when I married her—we were both raised in Midland, Texas, which is really not a pretty place to look at, but it's full of fine people. [*Laughter*] She was a public school librarian. By the way, her heart is still with our children. She desires for every child to learn how to read in America. But anyway, when I married her, or asked her to marry me, at least, the truth of the matter was, she didn't like politics—[*laughter*]—and didn't particularly care for politicians, either. [*Laughter*] Thank goodness she said yes. She's now a fabulous First Lady for our country.

I know something about what it takes to be a Governor, and you've got a good man running for Governor here in Minnesota. He's a person who can get results. He's proven that already in the statehouse. He has worked to make sure that government stays within a budget, and that's not easy. Generally, when governments meet, everybody has got a great idea. They all cost billions of dollars. [*Laughter*] That's why you've got to have somebody who understands the money we spend in government is not the government's money. Tim understands that.

He also understands the most important thing a State can do is to make sure you get it right when it comes to the schools. The most important issue for any Governor in any

State is to make sure every single child in your State receives a quality education. What you've got to have in the statehouse is somebody like Tim who is willing to insist upon high standards and high expectations, somebody who is willing to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. You see, if you get you—you've got to have a Governor who understands you must raise the bar and expect the best, who believes in his heart of hearts that every child can learn. You've got to believe that.

And then you've got to—and then you must have a Governor who trusts the local people, who trusts the local people to chart the path to excellence, who empowers the teachers and parents and principals to chart the path for excellence so every child can learn.

And then you've got to have a Governor who's willing to ask the fundamental question: Are we succeeding? You see, if you believe every child can learn, then you want to know whether every child in your State is learning. If you believe every child can read, then it makes sense to measure to determine whether or not every child is learning to read and write and add and subtract. And when they are, there will be plenty of praise for the teachers. But you better have you a Governor who's willing to challenge the schools that won't teach and won't change. No child should be left behind in Minnesota or anywhere else in America.

No, I'm proud to support Tim, and I encourage you to go out and work on his behalf. He'll make you a good Governor. And I'm also proud to be here with Norm Coleman. I need him in the United States Senate, and let me tell you why.

First, I'm confident he can do the job. He has proven himself as a leader. He was the mayor of St. Paul. He kept taxes down. He helped revitalize that city. He's got his priorities straight. You lost your hockey team, and he got you another one. He's not one of these polarizer-type people, you know, pitting one group of people against another. Frankly, we've got too much of that in Washington, DC. There's too many voices up there that would rather call names than get things done, too many dividers.

Norm Coleman is a uniter. He starts in the center, and he works with people to bring them together to do what's right for America. No doubt in my mind he can do the job, and like me, he married well. *[Laughter]*

And I tell you, we've got some problems, and we do. The economy is not as good as we'd like it to be. There are too many people looking for work and can't find it. And anytime that's the case in this country, we need to do something about it. The foundation for growth is strong. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. Listen, we've got the most productive people in the world. Our farmers are the most productive in the world. Our workers are the most productive in the world. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong in America. Small-business sector is vibrant. There's a lot right with what—our country when it comes to our economy. But still, too many are looking for work.

And so the fundamental question is what to do about it. The role of Government is not to create wealth. That's how some of the other folks in Washington think. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the small business can flourish, in which the producer can find markets, in which the entrepreneur can make a living. That's what the role of Government is.

And that's why I feel so strongly about tax relief. You see, when your economy is bumping along, when your economy is not doing as well as we want it to do, one way to increase jobs is to let people keep more of their own money. Some folks in Washington don't understand that. They think when the economy is bumping along, it's better to take more money.

Here's what we believe: We believe that when a person has more money, they're more than likely to demand a good or a service. And in our society, when somebody demands a good or a service, somebody is more likely to produce the good or service. And when somebody produces that good or service, somebody is more likely to be able to find work. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of the working people in America, the tax relief came at the right time.

If the tax relief were permanent, that would mean \$33 billion of more money in your pocket over the next 10 years—\$33 bil-

lion as the result of the rates going down. It would mean \$4 billion of tax relief over the next 10 years because of the child credit. It would mean \$1.4 billion because we significantly slashed the marriage penalty. See, one of the things we believe is, the Tax Code ought to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage. That's a little bit over \$38 billion if the tax cuts were permanent. Let me explain the problem with the issue and why you need to be asking the questions here in Minnesota about this issue.

See, there's a quirk in the Senate rules that says, "Yes, you can have tax relief, but after 10 years it goes away." It's kind of like the Senate giveth, and the Senate taketh away. *[Laughter]* I have trouble explaining that in Crawford, Texas, I'll be honest with you. *[Laughter]* It's hard to explain a system where we say, "You bet, we're going to let people keep more of their own money, but then after a while, it goes away," like a significant tax increase.

And so I've been asking the Congress to join me in making the tax relief permanent. It's essential for job creation. It's essential for job growth that you have a United States Senator who will join me in making tax relief a permanent part of the Tax Code.

One of the worst taxes of all is the death tax. You just ask your farming families what I'm talking about. You see, it's a tax that taxes a person's assets twice. Once is plenty, as far as we're concerned. You can tax them once, but don't tax them twice. You know, for the sake of the family farmer or the rancher or the small-business owner, we need to get rid of the death tax forever. You see, it ought to be right for somebody to be able to pass their assets on to whoever they want without the Federal Government getting in the way.

And I hope the farmers of this part of the State ask the question of the two candidates: Who's willing to make sure the death tax is forever gone from the Tax Code? That ought to be a question people all over Minnesota ought to be asking in this race. It's an important question. It's a question that shows whose philosophy and whose values are more in tune with the people who live in Minnesota.

We can do more to make sure our economy is strong. Listen, we need to have an

energy bill that includes ethanol. We need to have an energy bill that encourages conservation. If you're worried about jobs in America, we need to be less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

I look forward to working with Norm to make sure our medicine is—the medical system is modern. Listen, Medicare is old, and medicine isn't. Medicine has changed. Medicine has evolved, and Medicare hasn't. A lot of talk in Washington, but they have yet to get it right when it comes to treating our elderly the right way. We need to modernize Medicare and include prescription drugs.

We want our medicine to be affordable and accessible. We want people to have access to the health care, and we need it to be affordable. But we've got a problem, and that is, there's too many lawsuits. There's too many junk lawsuits suing our docs. It's one thing to hold a person to account; it's another thing to fill our courts with frivolous lawsuits. It's running up the cost of medicine.

These junk lawsuits are running people out of work, and it's making it harder for people to get health care. I was down in Mississippi. I met with a doctor. He and his wife were good missionary-type folks, and they moved to the Delta. It's one of the poorest parts of our Nation. They wanted to practice medicine to help people. They were healers. They wanted to use their God-given talent so somebody else could be healthy. The junk lawsuits ran them out of the State. Made me want to cry; made me want to weep.

The cost of medicine affects the Federal budget. It affects our Medicare. It affects VA hospitals. It affects Medicaid. For the sake of making sure our health care system works, we need to have Federal medical malpractice reform, and Norm Coleman will support me on that issue.

There's a lot we can do to make sure we're wise about spending your money. There's a lot we can do together to make sure that people can find work. There's a lot we can sure do together to make sure that the promises made to certain of our citizens are kept.

But the biggest job I've got and the biggest job we will have is to protect the American people from an enemy which hates America because of what we love. They hate us because we love freedom, and we're not chang-

ing. We love the fact that in this great country, people from all different kinds of walks can worship an almighty God any way he or she sees fit. That's what we love. We love the fact that people can speak their mind in America, can freely say what they want. We love the idea that there's a free press. We love every aspect of the freedoms. And so long as we hold those dear to our heart, there's going to be an enemy out there. And since we're not changing, we're going to have to do something about that enemy out there.

We learned a terrible lesson on September the 11th, a lesson that we must adjust to as a nation. And that is, no longer can two oceans protect us. See, it used to be we could sit back and say, "Oh, there's an emerging threat, but two oceans can protect us, and we can take our time to decide whether or not we need to respond to that threat." We learned something else about us, and that is, we're a battlefield now. And therefore, as a nation, we've got to do everything we can to win the battle, protect the people here at home.

I recently have been talking about an issue that's a grave issue of national concern, and that's Iraq. It's an issue that—we've had a good debate in Congress; it was an important debate. Congress is now speaking with one voice, along with me, and here's what we're saying: Any man who murders his own people, any man who uses weapons of mass destruction on his own people, any man who invades two countries in his region, any man who has defied resolution after resolution after resolution, any man who said he would disarm and hasn't, is a man who is a threat. And therefore, we call upon Mr. Saddam Hussein to disarm, just like he said he would do.

And we call upon the United Nations to show us whether or not this is a body that can effectively keep the peace, or it's like one its predecessors, the League of Nations. We call upon people to come together to disarm this man before he harms the United States or our friends and allies. In the name of peace—in the name of peace, we call upon Saddam to disarm.

So long as there's a threat out there, your Government will do everything we can to protect you. And we're making progress.

There's a lot of good folks—you've just got to know this—there's a lot of good folks working a lot of long hours to run down any hint, any idea, any whisper that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America. We're moving on it. We're doing everything we can to share intelligence.

And we're getting better at it, by the way. See, we're now on alert. We understand; we know the risks. We understand the enemy better and better. We're going to protect our United States Constitution, and at the same time, we're going to follow every lead. That's our most solemn duty.

And that's why I asked the United States Congress to join me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. This is an important issue. It's an important issue, and it's important we get it right. You see, this is an issue that is going to be—that is going to haunt us, if we get it wrong, long after I'm the President. Presidents will be dealing with the homeland security for a while. So Congress must make sure their Department works and functions well, so this President and future Presidents can stand up in Rochester, Minnesota, and say, "We're doing everything in our power to protect you. We're doing everything we can."

There's over 100 agencies in Washington that have something to do with the homeland, so I thought it made sense to put them all under one, so that if the number one priority is to protect the homeland, it becomes the priorities of all those scattered agencies. That way we're able to focus the attention and, if need be, change the culture of agencies and people who are—whose job it is to protect you.

And so the House of Representatives acted, and they passed a good bill, a bill I can live with. But it's stuck in the Senate. They can't get it out of the Senate, and let me tell you why. They said, "Well, you can have the homeland defense bill, but there is a price." They wanted to extract a price from me. And I say, "Well, what is that price?" Let me tell you what it is, and I think you'll share—you'll understand the reason I said no.

Every President since John F. Kennedy has the authority to act in the interests of national security. In other words, every Presi-

dent since John F. Kennedy has the capacity in the name of national security to suspend certain work rules, has the capacity to be able to move the right people to the right place at the right time, even though certain work rules would prevent that from happening. In the name of national security, the President has got to be able to respond quickly. The Senate wants to take away that authority. You see—let me tell you what—they want me to have that authority when it comes to the Agricultural Department but not that authority in the time of war when it comes to the Department of Homeland Security. This is a big issue in this campaign. There's no question where Norm Coleman will stand. He will stand with making sure that this President and future Presidents—[*applause*].

Let me give you an example of what I'm talking about, so we can clarify this issue, so people understand why I'm being reasonable. The Customs Department wanted the Customs agents to be able to carry a radiological detection device on their belt. Just in case somebody was trying to bring some weapon of mass destruction in, it made sense to have these people wearing these devices. The union head said, "Uh-uh, that must be voluntary. It can't be mandatory, and therefore we must have a collective bargaining session which could take months to resolve whether or not our Customs agents should be wearing radiological detection devices." That doesn't make any sense. You cannot allow a President to have work rules bind him in a time of national concern. The enemy moves fast, and so should we. We need to have the flexibility to make this work.

But the best way to secure our homeland is to chase these killers down one person at a time and bring them to justice. I know the enemy, and therapy isn't going to work. [*Laughter*] I don't know what was going through their mind when they hit us. They probably thought America was so self-absorbed, so materialistic, so incredibly selfish that after September 11th, 2001, we'd kind of shudder and maybe file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They met a different America. They met America—an America that understands we have a duty. We have a duty to defend freedom. We have a duty to defend our fellow citizens. We have a duty to make

sure our children grow up in a free and peaceful society.

We're making progress on this different kind of war. In the old days, you could measure progress based upon the amount of tanks you destroyed or boats you sunk or airplanes that don't fly for the enemy. You could measure progress. You could see lines of infantry going across, you know, different countries and say, "Gosh, we're making progress. We're pushing the enemy back."

These people that we fight hide in caves, send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. They're coldblooded killers. They don't value life like we do. See, we believe every life matters; every life is precious; everybody has worth. And they don't. And I must constantly remind our friends and allies of the stakes. And the stakes are high. That's why the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," still stands. That doctrine that says, "Either you're joining the United States in our quest for freedom and peace, or you're with the other team," it's still a viable doctrine.

A lot of people still hear the message, and we're after them. The other day a guy named Abu Sayyaf—I mean bin al-Shibh, he popped his head up. He's no longer a threat to America and our friends. It is a significant, significant capture because he was the person that wanted to be the 20th hijacker. And he was still on the loose, and he was still plotting to hurt America. We've captured—or hauled in, however you want to put it—a couple of thousand. A like number weren't quite so lucky.

So we're making progress, slowly but surely making—and sometimes you'll see the progress on you TVs, and sometimes you won't. You've just got to know that we've got a fantastic United States military and a strong alliance, a fantastic military and a strong alliance that is on course. And when we find them lighting somewhere, we get them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run until we whip terror once and for all.

I asked the Congress for a significant increase in defense spending for two reasons. It's important for you to know this. I strongly believe that anytime we put one of our troops into harm's way, we owe it to the troops and

we owe it to their loved ones to make sure they've got the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And the second reason is, it's an important message to friend and foe alike that when it comes to the defense of our freedom, there is no calendar that says, you've got—we're quitting. It doesn't matter how long it takes. It just doesn't matter how long it takes. However long it takes, this country of ours will stay the course. We will stay the course to protect America, and we will stay the course to promote the peace.

You see, the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They didn't understand that out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good, because we're a great nation. And one of the goods—and part of that good, part of that good is to achieve peace. If we're tough—and we'll be tough—if we speak plainly about terror—which we'll do—if we stay the course and remain strong, I believe that we can achieve peace. I truly believe it. I believe peace—we can achieve peace for ourselves. I believe we can achieve peace in parts of the world that have quit on peace. I believe peace is possible in the Middle East. I believe peace is possible in South Asia.

No, the United States can lead a coalition toward peace. I want you to know, that's my vision, and that's my hope, and that's what I believe is going to happen.

And as we work hard, as we work hard with Senator Coleman to make sure the country is stronger and safer, we must always remember that we've got to work to make the country better, a better place. We can do that through good education policy, good health policy.

But the truth of the matter is, the best way to make sure America addresses some of our deepest problems is to remember that if you want to do some good in the face of evil, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. In our country, it's important to remember, amongst the plenty, there are people who hurt, people who are addicted, people who need love, people who are hopeless. And we can solve that problem, too. We can solve that problem.

You can help solve that problem by putting your arm around somebody in need and saying, "I love you." You can solve that problem by mentoring a child. I saw the Scouts when I walked in. You can solve that problem by running a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop. You can solve that problem by going to your church or synagogue or mosque and listen to the call of the Almighty and feed the hungry and house the homeless.

That's how we can solve the problems of America. Government can hand out money, but Government can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when a fellow American understands there's a new patriotism in this country. It's more than just putting your hand over your heart. The new patriotism calls upon each of us to be that one person helping to change America, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

Today when I landed here in Rochester, I met a young fellow at the airport named Nick Reichel. Nick, where are you? Stand up. Fifteen years old, right? He doesn't look it. [*Laughter*] I'll tell you about Nick. See, he's heard the call. It didn't require any law passed. This young fellow has already volunteered 400 hours of community service, 400 hours as a part of the army of compassion, to help make his community as good a place as it can be.

No, there's no question in my mind, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I hope you can sense my optimism for our future. I hope you can see I see a brighter day for all of us, a day of peace, and a day in which the great promise of America shines its light into every corner in this country, the day in which we can proudly say that the American Dream is vivid and bright for every person who lives in my country. I feel optimistic about it, because I know America. I know America to be the greatest country, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming today. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in the fieldhouse. In his remarks, he referred to Don Supalla, president, Rochester Community and Technical College; John Kline, Clyde Billington, and Dan Stevens, candidates for Minnesota's Sec-

ond, Fourth, and Seventh Congressional Districts, respectively; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 13

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia to express his sympathy for the families of victims of the October 12 terrorist attack in Bali.

October 14

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the situation in Northern Ireland and cooperation against terrorism.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Waterford, MI, where, upon arrival at Oakland County International Airport, he met with volunteer Lenwood "Lenny" Compton, Jr. Later, he traveled to Dearborn, MI, where he attended a Michigan Victory 2002 reception at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

October 15

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

October 16

The President announced his intention to nominate Mary Carlin Yates to be Ambassador to Ghana.

The President announced his intention to nominate Blanquita Walsh Cullum to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

October 17

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia to express his condolences concerning the October 12 terrorist attack in Bali. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Atlanta, GA, where, upon arrival at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport, he met with volunteer Jill Sieder, founder and coordinator of the East Atlanta Kids Club.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to New Smyrna Beach, FL, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on education at Read-Pattillo Elementary School. Later, he traveled to Daytona Beach, FL, where he attended a Florida Victory 2002 reception at a private residence.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada of Bolivia to the White House on November 14.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation: Ray M. Bowen, Jo Anne Vasquez, Steven C. Beering, Barry C. Barish, Daniel E. Hastings, Kenneth M. Ford, Delores M. Etter, and Douglas D. Randall.

October 18

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he traveled to Springfield, MO, and then to Rochester, MN. In the afternoon, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted October 16

Blanquita Walsh Cullum,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2005, vice Cheryl F. Halpern, term expired.

Feliciano Foyo,
of Florida, to be a member of the Advisory Board for Cuba Broadcasting for a term expiring August 12, 2004, vice Jorge L. Mas.

Mary Carlin Yates,
of Oregon, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Ghana.

Submitted October 17

Barry C. Barish,
of California, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice Eamon M. Kelly, term expired.

Steven C. Beering,
of Indiana, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for the remainder of the term expiring May 10, 2004, vice Chang-Lin Tien, resigned.

Ray M. Bowen,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice Vera C. Rubin, term expired.

Delores M. Etter,
of Maryland, to be member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice John A. Armstrong, term expired.

Kenneth M. Ford,
of Florida, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice M.R.C. Greenwood, term expired.

Daniel E. Hastings,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science

Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice Bob H. Suzuki, term expired.

Douglas D. Randall,
of Missouri, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice Richard A. Tapia, term expired.

Jo Anne Vasquez,
of Arizona, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice Mary K. Gaillard, term expired.

Withdrawn October 17

Peter Marzio,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2006, vice Ruth Y. Tamura, term expired, which was sent to the Senate on September 4, 2002.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 14

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released October 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge in a press availability

Fact sheet: White House Conference on Minority Homeownership

Text of a Letter From the President's Cabinet to Senate Leaders

Released October 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Israeli economy

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3214 and H.R. 3838

Released October 17

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Sanchez de Lozada of Bolivia To Visit Washington

Released October 18

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 123

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved October 16

H.R. 3214 / Public Law 107-241
To amend the charter of the AMVETS organization

H.R. 3838 / Public Law 107-242
To amend the charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States organization to make members of the armed forces who receive special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger eligible for membership in the organization, and for other purposes

H.J. Res. 114 / Public Law 107-243
Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002

Approved October 18

H.J. Res. 123 / Public Law 107-244
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes